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TUNIS AND THE LATE BEY.

Mohamed-es-Sadok, the late Bey of Tunis, has survived only by a year the loss of his independence. Born in 1813, he had attained an age more remarkable in North Africa than in our temperate climate. He succeeded his brother, Sidi Mohamed, in 1859, and his reign of 23 years has been full of the vexations and disasters that mark the decay of States. It is difficult to realize the fact that so recently as the begining of this century Tunis was so formidable by sea that the chief European Power purchased immunity for their vessels by presents which were practically tribute. In 1817 Tunisian privateers actually dared to ply their trade in the English Channel, and only the appearance of English ships of war off Goletta extorted from Mahmoud Bey an engagement that the outrage should not be repeated. Ahmed Bey, who died in 1855, left Tunis no longer powerful, but at all events wealthy. There were some five millions hard cash in the Treasury, a sum which, prudently used, would have sufficed to avert the misfortunes that promoted the establishment of a French protectorate. During his short reign Sidi Mohamed managed to squander this large sum in making costly presents to other potentates and in importing cargoes of Circassian girls for his harem. The ruler who has just died found himself from the hour of his accession in embarrassed circumstances, while he was absolutely precluded from resorting to the means so successfully employed by his predecessors for the replenishment of the Treasury. Oriental Governments are always the prey of needy adventurers, whose audacity increases with the embarrassment of their masters. When tribute was no longer paid and the weakness of the administration led to continual revolts either among the Arabs on the frontiers or of the people of Tunis itself, there was no way of meeting the ordinary expenses of government except by borrowing. The favourites who had fattened on the revenues while there were any now acquired proficiency in the arts of the Stock Exchange, and the greater part of the successive loans raised at ruinous rates of interest upon very dubious security, found its way into their pockets. The scandals disclosed during the Roustan trial are a mere sample of the methods constantly in operation, by which ragged urchins picking up cigar ends in the European *cafés* managed to build themselves palaces and cover their breasts with European decorations. When the Bey had became hopelessly embarrassed by the peculation of his servants, Western speculators stepped in to complete his ruin. Concessions of all kinds were extorted by diplomatic pressure, and consequential damages were claimed when, as usually happened, they proved failures. After damages had been paid in full, the concessions remained as convenient diplomatic questions on which fresh demands could at any time be based. For half a century a constant struggle for preponderance was maintained by England and France in Tunis precisely as in Egypt. Those who maintain with M. Gambetta that there is no parallel between the two countries can scarcely have paid much attention to the details of that long diplomatic campaign. As no English Government ever dreamt of acquiring Tunis, the English policy was alwas directed simply to the maintenance of the sovereign rights of the Porte. Such a policy, as compared with one aiming at the establishment of French supremacy, had the disadvantage of being negative. To that has, of course, been added the other and yet more serious disadvantage of the practical disappearance of the Turkish power. The late Bey, rendered helpless by financial embarrassments or misled by interested advisers, has on several occasions played directly into the hands of those who sought to overturn his authority. At the very beginning of his reign he made the gigantic blunder of inflicting constitutional government upon Tunis. The people were, of course, totally unfit for anything of the kind, but the most serious consequence of the step was that the French Government took umbrage at the contrast thus afforded to their administration of Algeria, which, we need hardly say, they have too much good sense to conduct upon constitutional lines. The abrogation of the constitution, as well as of the new law courts, which the Bey had constructed upon approved European models, was categorically demanded. In the hot disputes which followed, Italian pretensions to preponderance in Tunis for the first time took a serious form; and the jealousy with which the French had long regarded us they transferred to Italy. In this, as in other affairs, the restlessness of the Italians, and their eagerness to catch at anything that promises a temporary advantage, have been fatal to their success. It was their true policy to range themselves alongside of England, to maintain the joint action of the Powers, and to uphold the sovereignty of the Porte. Their haste to play their own game led them into the direct conflict with France which preceded, and no doubt hastened, the recent development of French policy. Although the death of the Bey may produce no ostensible change in the relations of France to Tunis, it is probable that it will precipitate material alterations, which are, in any case, inevitable. Sidi Ali, never having known independence, is likely to yield implicit obedience to the "friend and protector of the Regency," as M. Cambon has described his country. But that obedience will only veil the silent transfer of absolute power over Tunis to the French Government.—*Times.*

THE POSITION OF THE MINISTRY.

An informal meeting of such members of the Cabinet as were in town was held at Lord Granville's house on Wednesday afternoon. Less than half a dozen Ministers were present, but we have reason to believe that some important resolutions on the subject of Egypt were taken. Whatever the reserve which diplomacy may impose upon the Cabinet, the necessity for prompt determination, if not prompt action, remains, and although Parliament is not vouchsafed any official information regarding the facts, the lines of our Egyptian policy are definitely shaping themselves. Nor can the question of Procedure well have been excluded from the Ministerial deliberations on Sunday. Parliament was convoked for the special purpose of revising the Rules of the House of Commons; it has been in Session a week, and virtually nothing has been done. The way has not even been cleared for a division on Mr. Gibson's Amendment. The declarations of the Prime Minister are circumspect and obscure; the course actually pursued by the Government has been hesitating and uncertain. Difficulties which it is plain that Ministers never foresaw have presented themselves; concessions which, a few weeks since, would have been scouted as preposterous, have already been indicated, if not actually made. Mr. Gladstone, after some show of resistance, accepted Mr. Raikes' Amendment, and has foreshadowed the possibility of still more important surrenders. The conduct of the discussion has proved far from satisfactory. Even the Speaker, on Friday last, volunteered the naive confession that he could affirm nothing as to the principles regulating it, and that Amendments which were in order one day might be out of order the next. There is thus a risk, if not of the Session being lost, of it being almost fruitlessly frittered away, and of weeks being spent to do what days should have been sufficient to accomplish. Whatever service the Opposition can render towards extracting a positive announcement of intentions from the Government is likely to be forthcoming. It has been authoritatively stated that the Whips on both sides have arranged for the division on Mr. Gibson's Amendment to be taken on Thursday. Whether this can be done is uncertain; whether, if the division does take place then, it will be the prelude to a final settlement of the controversy must depend on Ministers. Time is slipping away, and the Procedure Resolutions are being fought, line by line, and word for word. Concurrently with this another process may be witnessed. The Ministerial majorities have upon no occasion yet been great, and they show no tendency to increase. The list of Liberal absentees is large and representative, especially in regard to members sitting below the gangway. The Government will, of course, carry the day on Mr. Gibson's Resolution, but they must already have reckoned with the possibility of their doing so by a half-hearted and comparatively narrow majority. This is not a satisfactory prospect, but the Cabinet cannot be blind to its imminence.—*Standard.*

THE PANIC AT LYONS.

After observing that the latest telegram received from its Lyons correspondent indicates no abatement in the undefined terror by which that great city appears almost paralysed, the *Daily News* goes on to say:—It is now thought that the destruction of the Assommoir and the Bellecour Theatre was planned long ago, and that the explosions were intended merely as a prelude or signal for a rising. Be this as it may, every effort is being made by the organisers of the Terror to keep the public mind in a state of perturbation. The Archbishop of Lyons, the directors of the Post-office, and numerous other persons have received threatening letters, not like the Irish variety of such instruments, imposing a command, but conveying the intimation of a sentence of death to be presently executed. To add to the general alarm, a fresh discovery of dynamite was made yesterday by the police, who at present keep the place they found it in a profound secret. It is hardly to be wondered at that in the known present condition of Europe the fear of a tremendous outbreak should be widely and profoundly felt. There is but too much reason to apprehend that the murder of the Emperor of Russia, the Irish assassinations, and the outrages at Lyons, reveal the existence of a widely-spread organisation for bringing about general anarchy and some kind of redistribution of the good things of this world, probably to the advantage of the leading anarchists themselves. The problem how to face such an organization is a difficult one, but it affords some slight encouragement to reflect that anarchical combinations rarely effect much, except under circumstances peculiarly favourable to them. We have certainly no wish to underrate the value of recent Irish legislation, but it would be futile to ignore the soothing effect of three good harvests in succession. In Lyons, despite the general prosperity of France, there has been a lack of work and money of late, and discontent has consequently grown among the working classes. Work has been slack and money scarce, and the attention of those suffering from poor wages and only partial employment has been directed by their leaders towards the luxurious life of the *bourgeoisie.* There is no doubt that among the less sober and industrious workmen the hatred felt a hundred years ago against the aristocracy is now aimed at that wealthy middle class for which France is remarkable. It is far from our purpose to imply that the schemes of the anarchists are sympathised with by any but a very small minority of workmen; but it is well to bear in mind that it is only in times of dearth that such leaders can find recruits at all.

ANARCHICAL FORCES IN PARLIAMENT.

The *Temps* the other day, in a thoughtful article, remarked that although the Parliamentary machinery of England—as contrasted with that of France—was so slow, so bungling, and so involved, that it was difficult to believe it could ever have existed among a practical people, we had hitherto been able to neutralize its defects by the excellence of our party organization and the public spirit and *esprit de corps* of the two great bodies into which the House of Commons has been divided. The discussion of the closure brings out very clearly that while our machinery remains as faulty as ever the redeeming elements of party unity and public spirit are being very dangerously weakened. If the Government were to surrender on the question of the closure, it would proclaim the triumph of indiscipline and the failure of the attempt adequately to reform Parliamentary procedure. That is to say, it would at one and the same time materially strengthen the two most noxious influences against which Parliamentary government has at this moment to contend. It would give a new impetus to the fissiparous tendency, and at a time when to secure a bare majority is becoming increasingly difficult it would render action impossible unless it was backed by a majority of two-thirds. On the Liberal side of the House there are, as there always have been, numerous groups in embryo, but their development has hitherto been retarded by the salutary pressure of party discipline. But it is not only, nor chiefly, the Liberal party that is a prey to the new plague. In the new number of the *Fortnightly Review,* "Two Conservatives"—we cannot tell which pages are Sir Henry Wolff's and which Lord Randolph's—give a very alarming account of chaos which reigns on the Opposition benches. "The party," we are told, "has lost all its cohesion." "The sheep are wandering in the wilderness," and, if we may judge from the utterances of "Two Conservatives," are more inclined to trample on their shepherds than to follow them. No one can "foresee an end to this state of chaos;" there is nothing but "rivalry," indecision, and infirmity of purpose." The leaders give no certain sound, and the followers are in almost open mutiny. But wherever there are leaders who will not lead there are followers who will not follow. The impotence of the front Opposition bench is a painful spectacle enough, without matching it by a similar display of nerveless indecision on the other side of the table. It is, no doubt, difficult to say what would be the most efficacious remedy for the acknowledged evils which afflict the House of Commons. But it is not at all difficult to say what ought not to be done. Nothing ought to be done to increase the power of groups or to weaken the stress of responsibility under which at present the leaders of the majority are placed. If we are not to have anarchy established *en permanence* in the arcana of the Legislature, the Government must govern, and the leaders of the House must lead. There should be no uncertain sound, no equivocal declaration, nor should the chief of a powerful majority reserve the question whether he is prepared to repudiate his professions until he has seen how the cat will jump in the House of Commons. The Conservative leaders may justly complain that the very men who are calling upon them to lead are in the same breath declaring that they will not be "the slaves of a self-constituted junta," and describing Conservative organization as nothing better than the organized impotence of little cliques of tuft-hunters. But behind the Liberal party stand arrayed the representative organizations of the popular constituencies, which look with scant sympathy upon mutiny disguised as independence, and are ready to give a hearty support to a Government that knows its own mind, and is determined to have its own way. To surrender in such circumstances would be as absurd as if Von Moltke had handed his sword to De Wimpffen at Sedan.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

THE COLONIAL ENTERPRISE OF FRANCE.

The *Economist* expresses a decided opinion that the jealousy of French colonial expansion, which has scarcely died out in England, and still influences many publicists, has no very solid foundation. Except on the south of the Mediterranean, France has no colony of importance, and her colonial policy, though it occasionally appears to be grasping, has been for three-quarters of a century both fitful and weak:—

Previous to the Revolution of 1832, the Government, though retaining a tropical island here and there, like Guadaloupe in the West Indies, and Réunion in the South Pacific, and two or three small stations in India, of which Pondicherry alone is of the smallest territorial value—Chandernagore being a minute *enclave* 100 miles from the sea, and Mahé, a village only approachable by small vessels—had practically no colonial dominion. In 1834, however, the Orleanist Government, aware that the upper classes, who then monopolised power, were tired of the policy of peace at any price, decided to retain Algeria, which had been conquered and occupied by the Ministers of Charles X., and since then France has had one important colony so placed that it may become territorially very large. It is a belief among French statesmen that Algeria would be nearly worthless if bounded by strong States, and they might, therefore, be compelled to enlarge her limits over a great extent of territory. France would, it was well understood, have gone to war with Spain rather than permit her to keep Morocco, which Marshal O'Donnell had virtually conquered, and a peace was therefore patched up, England even joining in to guarantee the Spanish indemnity. It will, we believe, be found, when the secret history of the time comes to be revealed, that the seizure of Tunis was mainly dictated by the same motive, the Government having received information, true or false, which induced it to believe, what was probably true, that the Italians intended to make an attempt to acquire the province. The French statesmen do not seek colonies for emigration at all. They probably would not take them if they could get them, being greatly alarmed at the stationary character of their population as compared with the rapid increase of numbers in Great Britain, Germany, and even Italy, and will certainly make no sacrifices and run no risks to obtain them. They do not care very much even about Algeria, though disposed to hold on there and see what time will bring, and very jealous, for reasons other than colonial empire, of any interference, and they will make no sacrifice for direct dominion even in Egypt or Syria. But they are not disinclined, in a rather languid way, to pick up any outlying tropical or semi-tropical estate which circumstances may throw in their way, which is likely to cost little, and which can be held without any visible drain upon the bulk of the army. They think of such colonies not as colonies, or even as dependencies, but as estates, which afford careers to the adventurous, employ shipping, which they sincerely desire to foster, and add, if wisely managed, to the general "fortune of France" the mass of productive wealth which they never forget, and would willingly increase if they knew how.

THE PROGRAMME FOR NEXT SESSION.—Mr. Craig Sellar, M.P., writing to his constituents at Jedburgh, states that the great measure of next sesion will, in all probability, be a Local Government Bill of a comprehensive character, for which there is more necessity in England than in Scotland. There is a great scheme in preparation, and not far from completion, dealing with municipal reform in London. That measure is much wanted, and will materially affect the well-being of a population of four millions, who are living under the most anomalous rule of any population in Europe. Among other subjects likely to be brought forward are a Bankruptcy Bill, Patent Laws, and a Corrupt Practices Bill.

THE OPENING OF KEW GARDENS.—A meeting was held at Kew on Saturday to protest against the late hour at which Kew Gardens are opened, and other restrictions which are placed upon the public enjoyment of the gardens. Mr. Joseph Beaumont presided, and said in asking for the opening of the gardens at ten o'clock instead of one they were doing nothing to injure or impede the scientific objects of the gardens, for the report of the director did not reveal one single operation which would be in any way interfered with by the admission of the public at an earlier hour. Resolutions in accordance with the purpose of the meeting were adopted.

THE STATE OF EGYPT.

ARABI'S TRIAL.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Sunday:—

While the question of one man's guilt or innocence is absorbing public attention in England, little thought is apparently given to the much larger question it leaves behind it. Whether Arabi be patriot or rebel was a question of importance which it would, perhaps, have been advisable to settle before, rather than after the expedition, but which now possesses merely controversial interest. It is difficult to escape from the dilemma that the Government were either acting immorally in urging the Sultan to proclaim him a rebel, or unwisely in now upsetting the country in order to ascertain whether he was one. Not the fate of Arabi, but of Egypt, is the real question—of the whole nation, not of one member. I fear there can be little doubt that the result of last week has more than justified my predictions. Nearly every fruit of the expedition has been lost. We have weakened, instead of strengthened the power we came to establish. Our armed intervention in Egypt was hardly more efficacious in destroying the power of Arabi than our diplomatic intervention has been in destroying the authority of the Khedive. To such extent is this recognized that there is probably hardly a foreigner in Egypt who believes we are working with any other motive. It is only fair to state that our diplomacy gets credit for Machiavellian astuteness. We have rendered self-government in Egypt impossible by the destruction of the only two authorities that existed. It requires an Englishman to believe that it is the result of blunder and not of design. A fortnight ago I believed that the occupation need be only temporary, but the trial promises to last at least two months, and, unless something is done to prevent it, will leave us the only authority in the country capable of maintaining order.

Meanwhile counsel are actively employed. The prisoners reiterate their original complaints. Abdelal asserted that his keys had been taken from him. Mr. Broadley, succeeded, with the co-operation of Sir Charles Wilson, in recovering them from the Prefect of Police. Abdelal's safe and cupboards were found intact, and a large packet of documents recovered, which will be catalogued and translated. The accused demand an English guard, and that servants be allowed to deliver food. Mr. Broadley will address a memorial through Sir E. Malet on the subject. Arabi writes me a letter denying that he has ever been allowed a servant, adding:—"Had I despaired of my innocence being proved, I had plenty of time to have left the country, and to have reached a neighbouring one or England, the shelter of most fugitives, but I threw myself on the honour of the English in Egypt, thinking that I was as safe as in entering London. It is personally most inconvenient, and hardly to the wellknown honour of England that I am at present allowed no servant to wait on me. It is hardly just thus to degrade me after my late surrender."

No correspondent has interviewed Arabi, nor been allowed to do so. All the prisoners repeatedly express their gratitude to the English Government and Mr. Wilfrid Blunt for providing counsel, and their satisfaction with the manner in which Sir Charles Wilson has, with the concurrence of Sir E. Malet, discharged his difficult task. Arabi has completed his written instructions, which are said to be composed with great intelligence, and he is now compiling lists of witnesses and documents. The prosecution commence communicating proceedings already gone through to-morrow. They cannot be copied under a fortnight. Counsel will then consider oral and documentary evidence, cross-examine all witnesses, and produce a vast amount of verbal and written evidence, besides tendering testimony taken on commission. If the prisoners are then committed all the evidence must be read, and Mr. Broadley's address for the prisoners will last necessarily for several days and will result in the public washing of political dirty linen, all which fatal and useless delay might have been avoided by adopting the course I previously suggested— the deportation of the accused. This opinion, now, perhaps, too late, is becoming general.

The Council of Ministers is actively considering the serious question of the Soudan. Ismail Eyoub Pacha, formerly Governor, has submitted a report, stating that 20,000 men are necessary for the suppression of the insurrection, and estimating the cost at two millions sterling. An American officer, with exceptional knowledge of the country, considers the danger exaggerated, and that 2,000 English or Indian troops, or even negroes well officered, but not Arabs, landed at Suakin and marched to Berber would suppress the rebellion temporarily until the reorganization of the province. Arabi considers that the Mahdi will not leave the Soudan, but that that is lost.

The Government yesterday informed the Domains Commissioners that circumstances would not permit them to make the advance necessary for the December coupon. Baker Pacha has been named by the Khedive Generalissimo of the Egyptian forces. All that is now required is an army. The Government have submitted to the foreign Powers the project by which the International Tribunals are continued for three years, with power to put in operation any modification agreed to by common accord. As regards the native tribunals, the principle of European Judges sitting with natives is admitted, but the details are not agreed upon and particulars telegraphed are incorrect. The cause of judicial reform in Egypt has lost one of its ablest and warmest advocates in Mr. Justice Scott, who, to the regret of his colleagues and the entire community, has paid his farewell visit to the country which owes so much to his influence. The Khedive in receiving him thanked him warmly for his services as an impartial Judge, and bestowed with his own hands the order of the Osmanieh, so that he may not forget Egypt.

THE SCOTCH MOORS AND FORESTS. — Sport on the Scotch moors ceased more than a month ago, and the season in the deer-forests has terminated. Mr. Winans has killed 186 stags on the numerous combined shootings for which he pays a rent of about £15,000 a year, and which extend nearly across Scotland from Beauly Firth to Strome Ferry. These were all slaughtered by scientific "driving." In the Duke of Sutherland's forest of Reay (leased by the Duke of Westminster, rent £1,800), about seventy stags were killed by Lord Chesham. In Ross-shire Lord Ormathwaite killed fifty-five stags in Fannich Forest (Mr. Mackenzie's, rent £1,000); and in the great forest of Applecross (Lord Middleton's) two sportsmen stalked forty-nine stags in a fortnight. In Inverness-shire Sir Charles Mordaunt and Lord Brooke killed 130 stags by fair stalking in Glenfeshie (Sir G. M. Grant's, rent £3,300), of which only one was a "royal." On Lochiel's forest at Achnacarry only forty stags have fallen. Lord Tweedmouth has obtained excellent sport at Guisachan, and the score of the Duke of Richmond's party in Glenfiddoch has been up to the usual high average. In the famous forest of Mar (Aberdeenshire), Lord Fife has killed about 160 stags. In Forfarshire, on Invermark (Lord Dalhousie's rent £2,700), Sir R. Harvey M. P., and his friends have done well, not only in the forest, but among the grouse. In Perthshire, Lord Breadalbane's ground round Taymouth and the forests of Athole and Glenartney (Lord Aveland) have afforded abundant sport. Several heavy stags have been killed on the Duke of Argyll's ground near Inverary, and in Jura forest about 120 stags have fallen. In all parts of the Highlands sheep farms are being cleared, with a view to foresting.

A TRAIN ON FIRE.

A PASSENGER BURNT TO DEATH.

The Midland Scotch express, which runs between St. Pancras and Glasgow, met with a serious accident on Sunday morning, by which a passenger was burnt to death and four others had a narrow escape from a similar fate. The train, to which are attached two Pullman cars—one for Edinburgh and the other for Glasgow—left St. Pancras at 9.15 on Saturday night, and was due at St. Enoch's Station, Glasgow, at 7.45 on Sunday morning. The journey to Normanton was performed in perfect safety, and that place was left at two o'clock in the morning. In the centre of the train was the Enterprise Pullman sleeping car, which contained four passengers. This car is magnificently fitted up and is heated by means of a stove fixed at one end. One of the passengers is believed to have been Dr. Arthur, a medical man of Aberdeen, who was said to have been on his way home from the Egyptian campaign. The train arrived at Normanton, a few minutes late, at 1.45 on Sunday morning. There ten minutes were, as usual, allowed for refreshments, examination of tickets, etc. Nothing unusual was noticed in any part of the train, when at exactly two o'clock it resumed its journey northwards in the direction of Leeds. When it had travelled from five to seven minutes and had attained a speed of 50 to 60 miles an hour, Robert Donaldson, the attendant in the Edinburgh sleeping car, noticed that a flame and smoke were rushing towards him from the interior of the compartment in which he was on duty. This was in the rearmost part of the car, close to the stove by which the vehicle was warmed. Donaldson at once rushed down the centre of the carriage and shouted to the four occupants, all of whom were in their berths, "The car is on fire." Then, lowering a window, he attempted to arrest the attention of the engine-driver by means of the communication-cord, but whether he succeeded in doing so seems to be at least very doubtful, for, as far as can at present be ascertained, the train did not slacken speed at that point. In the meantime three of the gentleman passengers were rushing frantically about the car in their nightdresses, having apparently been cut off by the rapidly spreading flames from the berths which they had occupied. The fire fanned by the currents of air which found access through several apertures, made its way from the hinder compartment, where it had originally broken out, towards the opposite end of the car, consuming everything in its progress. The three gentlemen and the conductor appear to have been contemplating leaping from the train, which would inevitably have involved fatal consequences, when, as the express was passing the Rothwell Haigh signal-box, the signalman in charge, perceiving flames and smoke issuing from the top of the sleeping-car, wired to the man on duty at the next box to stop and examine the train. When the driver had proceeded a few hundred yards further, and before he had reached the point where he was to have been stopped by the signalman, he discovered that something was wrong, and applied the continuous brake and quickly brought the train to a standstill within a short distance of Hunslet, the ticket-collecting station for Leeds. By this time the Edinburgh sleeping-car was one mass of flame, almost from end to end. Donaldson, the conductor, and three of the passengers, the latter still in their nightshirts, leaped from the car, one of them getting out through a window as he could not open the door. An alarm was immediately raised, and, attracted partly by the cries of the passengers, all of whom had alighted from every part of the train, and partly by the glare of the flames, a number of railway servants and police constables were quickly on the spot. Buckets of water were thrown upon the burning car, which was detached from the rest of the train. The flames, however, had got too firm a hold of all parts of the car to be quenched by such means, and, therefore, on the suggestion of Police-sergeant Vincent, of the Leeds Borough Force, the car was drawn 300 or 400 yards along the line to a water crane used for supplying locomotives. Here an attempt was made to turn the supply pipe over the car, but the latter was found to be too high. At this stage, or shortly before, the conductor of the car suddenly appears to have remembered that one of the four gentlemen travelling in the coach—namely, the one believed to be Dr. Arthur—had not been seen since the car took fire. Donaldson called the attention of the railway officers and the police to this distressing fact, and all the energies of those present were directed to search for the missing gentleman. He was believed to be near the end of the car which first took fire. The flames, however, prevented the explorers from gaining access to the interior of the vehicle at this part until the car had been drawn to a point of the line opposite to Messrs. Nicholson's chemical works, where a number of men were at work. Here a private jet belonging to the firm was obtained, and there being a plentiful supply of water, the flames were quickly extinguished, not, however, until the elegantly-fitted car was a complete wreck and had been burning probably for half an hour. Then it was that the remains of the fourth gentleman were found in a sleeping berth, all the furnishings of which had been destroyed and the woodwork almost totally burnt away. The flesh was found to have been literally burnt to a cinder, and the bones of the legs were broken and calcined. The head alone had partially escaped, it having apparently been protected by some object. A portion of the hair was burnt away, but otherwise the features were only scorched. The right arm, the flesh of which was almost completely burnt away, was raised as if the unfortunate victim had been in the act of warding off some falling object when he met his terrible fate. Telegrams were despatched to the company's surgeons in Leeds, who quickly arrived. The body of the deceased was drawn in a carriage to the Leeds Station and conveyed to the mortuary in Millgarth-street, where it awaited identification. The express was re-made up and resumed its journey, the three gentlemen who had saved themselves from the car being provided with clothing and proceeding northwards. In the bottom of the carriage were found a portmanteau labelled Dr. Arthur, Aberdeen, a railway pass bearing the name "D. Dove, Esq.," between Edinburgh and Dalkeith, several flasks, a gold and a silver watch, £14 in money, two reading-lamps, a bunch of keys labelled "W. P. Laidlaw, St. Vincent-street, Glasgow," and the frame of a Gladstone bag. A preliminary inquiry before Mr. Loveday, passenger superintendent, from Derby, was held at Leeds on Sunday, and arrangements were made for the inquest.

LATER.

Dr. Arthur's brother arrived in Leeds late on Sunday night. The remains of the deceased are unrecognisable, but no doubt exists that they are those of Dr. Arthur, of Aberdeen.

Mr. Robert Cranston, jun., of Messrs. Cranston and Elliott, merchants, Northbridge, one of the passengers in the burning car, gives the following account:—"Having undressed and got into my berth, I smelt a sulphurous smell, and I thought something was wrong with the flue of the stove. After reading a short time I blew out my lamp and lay down to sleep; but I had only laid my head on the pillow for a minute or two, when the smell became so strong that I felt a choking sensation. I pulled open the curtains of my berth and looked out into the car and found it full of smoke. I sprang up from my berth with the intention of going to the rear of the car, where the stove was, to see what was the matter. I had just turned the corner, and had entered the short corridor which leads from the gentlemen's sleeping room, when I met Donaldson, the conductor, who cried, 'The place is on fire, Sir.' I asked him what we could do. 'Stop the train first,' he said. He rushed to the front of the car, and I followed him. The rear of the car was full of dense smoke, but there was no light. As I ran up the passage between the berths I shook the passengers, and cried, 'The place is on fire.' When I gotto the front of the car he was pulling the cord to check the train. I also took hold of the cord, and then the conductor said, 'I will go back and get water while you pull the cord.' I kept pulling till I found the train slow, and then I went back to the sleeping compartments. I woke up Mr. Dove, S.S.C., who ran out to the front, and the train having stopped, he and I got off the car. I then saw a gentleman getting out by one of the windows. This was Mr. Main, of 24, Buckingham-terrace. He had broken one of the windows, and had got half out of the car when the train stopped. I believe he was a good deal cut with the glass. The greatest excitement prevailed among the other passengers at this time, who were screaming and shouting. The railway men uncoupled the Glasgow portion of the train which was immediately behind the burning Pullman sleeping carriage to keep the fire from spreading. At this time inquiries were made as to whether all the passengers were out of the car. I asked if every person was out, and some one said 'Yes.' The conductor then said he thought there was still one passenger in the car. I agreed to make an attempt to enter the burning car. I got on the platform, opened the door to the front, and went in, but was unable to get further than a few feet, as the smoke was choking me. On coming out of the car I found, to my alarm, that the train had again started, and I could not get off the platform. I afterwards learned that they wished to take the car forward to where there was a water cistern, used for filling the engine boilers, and where water could be got to play on the burning car. I remained on the end platform of the car till the flames broke through the woodwork. I managed to step from the car on the carriage in front of me, and hung on there. I was observed by some of the people in the carriage, and a gentleman whom I do not know, but who I think belongs to Edinburgh, got out at his carriage door and, holding out his hand, assisted me into one of the compartments. Shortly thereafter the train stopped, and I also got out. It was found that the water from the pillar could not be brought to bear on the car, and it was then taken a little further till it was opposite a public work, where a hose was brought to bear upon it. As I had just jumped out of bed I was very cold. One gentleman gave me an ulster and a pair of stockings, everyone being very kind to Mr. Main, Mr. Dove, and myself. I lost watch, chain, all my luggage, and nearly every stitch of clothing."

An Aberdeen correspondent writes:—

"The gentleman who was found to have been fatally burnt in the Pullman sleeping car at Leeds was Dr. John F. Arthur, son of the Rev. David Arthur, Free Church Minister, Banchory, Devenick, near Aberdeen. Ten years ago he graduated at Aberdeen University, and almost immediately afterwards proceeded to Ceylon, where he was engaged in the Government medical service at Dimbula, where he remained until about five weeks ago, when he left Ceylon to take up his residence in Scotland. He arrived in London *en route* on Monday last, making a brief stay there. He left St. Pancras Station on Saturday evening for Aberdeen. He was 33 years of age, and was unmarried."

THE EXTRAORDINARY RAINFALL.

The disastrous floods which have recently occurred in various parts of the country have excited so much attention that a few remarks as to the rainfall of the past few days may not, says the *Daily News,* be without interest. It appears that in the west and south-west of England the amount of rain measured in the course of the past fortnight has just been about double the average for the entire month of October, while over the Midland and South-Eastern counties it has been about half as much again as the monthly average. In London rain has fallen every day, and on five days out of the fourteen the amount has been at least half an inch, the aggregate for the period being about four inches and a quarter. To the ordinary unscientific individual, whose notions on the subject of rainfall are, as a rule, somewhat vague, an inch or two more or less of rain may appear a trifling matter, and four inches and a quarter in a fortnight a comparatively insignificant amount. Few persons are aware that an inch of rain over an acre of ground means 101 tons, or 22,623 gallons, of water. Accepting as correct the Registrar-General's estimate of the gross area of London and its immediate suburbs, it would therefore appear that an inch of rain over the London district weighs in round numbers 45 millions of tons, and amounts to the overwhelming volume of 10,000 millions of gallons of water. With these figures in mind, the serious effects produced by a sudden downpour such as we occasionally get in thundery weather, or by a long-continued spell of wet such as we have recently had, do not seem at all surprising. Estimating the total amount of rain in London during the past fortnight as four inches and a quarter, and applying this amount to the above figures, we find that the weight of water which has fallen has exceeded 190 millions of tons, while in volume it has amounted to 42,500 millions of gallons. In attempting to grasp such enormous numbers, the mind becomes lost; but some idea of the immensity of the volume may be gained by imagining it all to be concentrated into one reservoir or basin. Supposing such a reservoir to be quite square and 40 feet in depth, the sides of the square would be more than 13,000 feet in length, and a walk round it would entail a journey of very nearly ten miles. If we imagine the water to be enclosed in a cubic vessel, the sides of such a receptacle would be each about 1,896 feet long. With such a volume of water pouring down upon the district, it is by no means to be wondered at that the streams and rivers have all overflowed their natural embankments and discharged some of their superabundance upon the adjoining lands. An inquiry into the causes which have produced this excessive precipitation shows that in the course of the past few days we have been exposed to the influence of several depressions or cyclonic disturbances, each of which has been accompanied by unusually heavy rains. The depressions which advanced over us the week before last were mostly of little intensity, and caused more rain than wind; but the two which appeared respectively on Tuesday last and on Friday and Saturday were much more important, and were in each instance marked by heavy gales. Both disturbances presented some remarkable features. The first was characterised by the suddenness with which it approached, and by the extreme severity of the rains and gales which attended its passage across the south-east of England. The depression of Friday and Saturday was, on the other hand, extremely dilatory in its progress, and very erratic in its movements. The centre of the disturbance first appeared over the Bay of Biscay on Friday morning, and seemed likely to travel north-eastwards to our own shores. Instead of doing this, however, it suddenly changed its course, and passed in a south-easterly direction over the south-west of France. Hardly had it reached this position before it again altered its path and travelled in a northerly or north-easterly direction across France to North Germany, in which position it was found on Sunday morning. The disturbance appears to have been influenced by the conditions of weather prevailing at a very long distance from our islands and proves that the area of observation embraced by our present meteorological system is even yet too restricted for the difficult work of weather prophesy to be carried on with perfect success. We have spoken of

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THE GOVERNMENT AND EGYPT.

The announcement that Lord Dufferin is about to proceed to Egypt on a Special Mission will create little surprise, though it will give general satisfaction. Lord Dufferin will represent the authority of the English Government in their relations with the Egyptian officials with a force and distinctness to which less distinguished diplomatists could hardly pretend, while the well-earned confidence Ministers repose in him will enable them to delegate to him a measure of power which they would be chary indeed of allowing to others not so well tried nor so well trusted. His presence will not, of course, relieve the Government of any part of their responsibility, nor, great magician as he is, will he be allowed to evoke order from chaos by spells wholly of his own devising. But, as the eye and the hand of Ministers, he will influence not only the details but the broad lines of settlement. The conclusions he arrives at from personal observation and inquiry will naturally have much weight in determining the views and methods of his masters; the mere fact that in him they have an instrument of truest temper ought to give them heart to strike boldly and unhesitatingly. Still, he goes to Cairo not to dictate but to carry out a policy. That policy, whatever its intrinsic merits or defects may be, will have, at least, all the advantages which able agency can secure for it. Already in the earlier stages of this question Lord Dufferin has won for himself the personal prestige which is everything in diplomacy and administration. In spite of his protests people will persist in regarding the perpetual postponement of the signing of the Military Convention as a triumph of astute diplomacy, and the success of the British Ambassador is not the less distinct because he can allege with truth that he was throughout honest in his dealings with the infatuated advisers of the Sultan. But before this, at St. Petersburg, he had shown what courtesy and tact can do in making diplomatic relations easy, even when public feeling in one country is acutely suspicious of the designs of the Government of the other. As Governor-General of Canada he had more ample opportunity of displaying qualities which, as the representative of English power in Egypt, he will find eminently useful and necessary. To be simple and frank, to be kindly and courteous, to say the right thing in the right place to the right people, to sustain worthily the dignity of eminent office, to bear unreluctantly the fatigues of State ceremonial—these are gifts as precious as administrative energy and force of will, and there is, perhaps, even more place for their exercise among the ancient peoples of the East than in the vigorous countries of the British Colonies. Lord Dufferin is familiar with the secrets of European diplomacy, he knows by intimate experience what the peculiar perils are which Ottoman statesmanship prepares. Sir Edward Malet will be at hand to assist with his more special knowledge of Egyptian parties. Government, in a word, have fitting instruments for working a policy. But have they a policy? Certainly the public, though they have manifested great patience, are anxious to learn not only whether the Government have decided on their course of action, but what that course is to be. Do the Government reveal nothing because they have nothing to reveal? Are they still casting about for a policy? Many will think so. Others will prefer to believe that the Ministry have a definite plan, but that circumstances are not yet propitious in Egypt for the initiation of their scheme. It is a choice of evils; for if those who manage our affairs have not yet made up their minds what is to be done, we are as far now from assurance for the future as we were weeks ago. If, on the other hand, the time be not deemed ripe in Egypt for the unfolding of the great scheme, we are forced to ask when events are likely to prove more kind. If, whilst our *prestige* is at its height, our ordinances cannot calm the troubled elements, it seems hardy to hope that it will work the wished-for good when the postponement of settlement has made difficulties more serious. Sober-minded men who have watched the history of the Ministry and its relations with the Caucus and the Radical section of its supporters will look for the difficulties which engender delay rather in England than in Egypt. We may well fear that the influences which have marred government in Ireland will thwart and paralyse action in Egypt. The impulses of Ministers, as individuals, are probably healthy enough. But the fear of the Caucus and its decrees follows them in all their ways. To settle the Egyptian Question aright is a good thing, but to keep the Liberal party intact may seem a better. Yet in such an hour as this one would fain hope that to ensure the country's good is the surest way of realising and sustaining party advantage. There is a cry amongst the Radicals against annexation. That may pass. But there is a cry also against other courses, reasonable and necessary in themselves, because they are held to savour of annexation. To this cry the Ministry, if they care to stand well with the country and to retain whatever confidence their military success has won for them, must give no heed. The nation does not regret the sacrifices that it has made, but it is fully sensible of them. It does not ignore the weight of responsibility which it has undertaken, but it realises that the responsibility was one that must be incurred. It will not tolerate for one moment the surrender of any 'vantage ground that has been gained. It will expect and demand advantages, solid, manifest, and enduring from the efforts it has made. A settlement which secures for us nothing of the ends for which we fought will fill the Constituencies with angry disappointment, and will bring certain ruin on its authors. The greater their triumph has been, the greater then will be their shame. Nor will the disappointment and discontent of the people be lessened by the reflection that the empty and abortive issue of events is defended with a wealth of eloquent words, and justified on grounds of superfine morality.—*Standard*.

The *Daily News* says:—Lord Dufferin appears to be the diplomatic equivalent of Sir Garnet Wolseley. Whenever a difficult bit of work has to be done he is sent for. It is not, perhaps, the highest tribute to the merits of the diplomatic service that an outsider has to be called in whenever a really tough piece of work has to be grappled with. Lord Dufferin, as we announce this morning, is going to Egypt, in order to take in hand the various troublesome problems that have to be dealt with there. We have no doubt that he will succeed if success be in any way possible. He has both strength and pliancy. He is capable of seeing things for himself, and is not likely to be the creature of official convention or of European rings. Questions which were asked last night in the House of Commons show the strong interest with which Egyptian affairs are viewed in this country and the variety and difficulty of the problems which have to be solved. In our view it is a misfortune that the trial of Arabi should keep the popular mind in a ferment, and divert English diplomacy and Egyptian politicians from the necessary business of tranquillization and reorganization. We have always contended that he ought to have been treated as a prisoner of war, sent, if need were, into safe but not dishonourable exile, but not handed over as an ordinary criminal to be tried by the authorities against whom he led a successful revolution, defeated only by the foreign Power to whose justice and generosity he surrendered. Even now this course, we are convinced, would be the wisest, and this opinion seems to be making way on both sides of the House, and to have its representatives even on the front Opposition bench. Our Correspondent at Cairo telegraphs that the feeling is gaining ground that the Egyptian Government will never face the exposure which the trial of Arabi would bring about.

ANARCHICAL FORCES IN PARLIAMENT.

The *Temps* the other day, in a thoughtful article, remarked that although the Parliamentary machinery of England—as contrasted with that of France—was so slow, so bungling, and so involved, that it was difficult to believe it could ever have existed among a practical people, we had hitherto been able to neutralize its defects by the excellence of our party organization and the public spirit and *esprit de corps* of the two great bodies into which the House of Commons has been divided. The discussion of the closure brings out very clearly that while our machinery remains as faulty as ever the redeeming elements of party unity and public spirit are being very dangerously weakened. If the Government were to surrender on the question of the closure, it would proclaim the triumph of indiscipline and the failure of the attempt adequately to reform Parliamentary procedure. That is to say, it would at one and the same time materially strengthen the two most noxious influences against which Parliamentary government has at this moment to contend. It would give a new impetus to the fissiparous tendency, and at a time when to secure a bare majority is becoming increasingly difficult it would render action impossible unless it was backed by a majority of two-thirds. On the Liberal side of the House there are, as there always have been, numerous groups in embryo, but their development has hitherto been retarded by the salutary pressure of party discipline. But it is not only, nor chiefly, the Liberal party that is a prey to the new plague. In the new number of the *Fortnightly Review*, "Two Conservatives"—we cannot tell which pages are Sir Henry Wolff's and which Lord Randolph's—give a very alarming account of chaos which reigns on the Opposition benches. "The party," we are told, "has lost all its cohesion." "The sheep are wandering in the wilderness," and, if we may judge from the utterances of "Two Conservatives," are more inclined to trample on their shepherds than to follow them. No one can "foresee an end to this state of chaos;" there is nothing but "rivalry," indecision, and infirmity of purpose." The leaders give no certain sound, and the followers are in almost open mutiny. But wherever there are leaders who will not lead there are followers who will not follow. The impotence of the front Opposition bench is a painful spectacle enough, without matching it by a similar display of nerveless indecision on the other side of the table. It is, no doubt, difficult to say what would be the most efficacious remedy for the acknowledged evils which afflict the House of Commons. But it is not at all difficult to say what ought not to be done. Nothing ought to be done to increase the power of groups or to weaken the stress of responsibility under which at present the leaders of the majority are placed. If we are not to have anarchy established *en permanence* in the arcana of the Legislature, the Government must govern, and the leaders of the House must lead. There should be no uncertain sound, no equivocal declaration, nor should the chief of a powerful majority reserve the question whether he is prepared to repudiate his professions until he has seen how the cat will jump in the House of Commons. The Conservative leaders may justly complain that the very men who are calling upon them to lead are in the same breath declaring that they will not be "the slaves of a self-constituted junta," and describing Conservative organization as nothing better than the organized impotence of little cliques of tuft-hunters. But behind the Liberal party stand arrayed the representative organizations of the popular constituencies, which look with scant sympathy upon mutiny disguised as independence, and are ready to give a hearty support to a Government that knows its own mind, and is determined to have its own way. To surrender in such circumstances would be as absurd as if Von Moltke had handed his sword to De Wimpffen at Sedan.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

DISBANDMENT OF THE ARMY RESERVES.—A general order from the Horse Guards announces that her Majesty has been pleased to command that the services of the men of the first-class army reserve, called out on permanent service on the 25th of July last, who joined the reserve between the 1st January and 30th June, 1881, are no longer required. The men, unless they elect to remain on army service, will be at once transferred to the reserve. They will, however, be permitted either to extend their service with the colours for two years (providing they do not thereby exceed the term of their original enlistment) or to complete their twelve years' engagement, with the distinct understanding that they will have no claim to re-engage to complete twenty-one years' service unless they shall have been promoted to be non-commissioned officers. Such of the men serving abroad who do not wish to remain on army service will be sent home with all convenient speed, with the view to their re-transfer to the reserve under the above conditions.

THE COLONIAL ENTERPRISE OF FRANCE.

The *Economist* expresses a decided opinion that the jealousy of French colonial expansion, which has scarcely died out in England, and still influences many publicists, has no very solid foundation. Except on the south of the Mediterranean, France has no colony of importance, and her colonial policy, though it occasionally appears to be grasping, has been for three-quarters of a century both fitful and weak:—

Previous to the Revolution of 1832, the Government, though retaining a tropical island here and there, like Guadaloupe in the West Indies, and Réunion in the South Pacific, and two or three small stations in India, of which Pondicherry alone is of the smallest territorial value—Chandernagore being a minute *enclave* 100 miles from the sea, and Mahé, a village only approachable by small vessels—had practically no colonial dominion. In 1834, however, the Orleanist Government, aware that the upper classes, who then monopolised power, were tired of the policy of peace at any price, decided to retain Algeria, which had been conquered and occupied by the Ministers of Charles X., and since then France has had one important colony so placed that it may become territorially very large. It is a belief among French statesmen that Algeria would be nearly worthless if bounded by strong States, and they might, therefore, be compelled to enlarge her limits over a great extent of territory. France would, it was well understood, have gone to war with Spain rather than permit her to keep Morocco, which Marshal O'Donnell had virtually conquered, and a peace was therefore patched up, England even joining in to guarantee the Spanish indemnity. It will, we believe, be found, when the secret history of the time comes to be revealed, that the seizure of Tunis was mainly dictated by the same motive, the Government having received information, true or false, which induced it to believe, what was probably true, that the Italians intended to make an attempt to acquire the province. The French statesmen do not seek colonies for emigration at all. They probably would not take them if they could get them, being greatly alarmed at the stationary character of their population as compared with the rapid increase of numbers in Great Britain, Germany, and even Italy, and will certainly make no sacrifices and run no risks to obtain them. They do not care very much even about Algeria, though disposed to hold on there and see what time will bring, and very jealous, for reasons other than colonial empire, of any interference, and they will make no sacrifice for direct dominion even in Egypt or Syria. But they are not disinclined, in a rather languid way, to pick up any outlying tropical or semi-tropical estate which circumstances may throw in their way, which is likely to cost little, and which can be held without any visible drain upon the bulk of the army. They think of such colonies not as colonies, or even as dependencies, but as estates, which afford careers to the adventurous, employ shipping, which they sincerely desire to foster, and add, if wisely managed, to the general "fortune of France" the mass of productive wealth which they never forget, and would willingly increase if they knew how.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

BALMORAL CASTLE, MONDAY.

Divine service was conducted at the Castle yesterday morning by the Very Rev. Dr. Milligan, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, in the presence of the Queen, Princess Beatrice, and the Duchess of Connaught, and the Royal Household. The Very Rev. Dr. Milligan and the Rev. Archibald Campbell had the honour of dining with the Queen and Royal Family. Major Egerton arrived at the Castle.

The Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Duke of Cambridge, and attended by Lieutenant Clarke, went out shooting in Windsor Great Park on Monday.

The Duke of Albany visited the Princess of Wales on Monday and remained to luncheon.

The Grand Duke of Hesse, the Hereditary Grand Duke, and Princess Alice of Hesse dined with the Prince and Princess of Wales on Monday evening. The Prince of Wales, attended by Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, afterwards accompanied their Royal Highnesses to the Victoria Station, where he took leave of them on their departure for Darmstadt.

The Duke of Edinburgh, who arrived at Sheerness on Sunday evening, on a visit to Vice-Admiral Bridges Rice, C.B., commander-in-chief at the Nore, left Admiralty House on Monday morning for Faversham, *en route* to his residence at Eastwell Park. During his brief stay in Sheerness his Royal Highness transacted some business in connection with the Royal Barracks, of which he is Admiral Superintendent.

The Archbishop of Canterbury was allowed on Monday to sit up for a short time, and it was stated that his Grace was progressing most satisfactorily. Sir William Gull and Sir William Jenner visited their patient on Monday with reference to the adoption of a certain important step which it is understood had been recommended.

The Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe have been entertaining company at Floors Castle.

The Earl and Countess of Derby returned to St. James's-sqaure from Keston on Monday.

Lord and Lady Ardilaun have arrived on Carlton House-terrace from St. Anns, county Galway.

The Right Hon. Lord Justice and Lady Brett have arrived in Ennismore-gardens.

Sir George Dasent and Miss Dasent have returned to turn from visiting the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon at Highclere Castle, Newbury.

A marriage has been arranged between the Rev. George Wyndham Kennion, Bishop-Designate of Adelaide, South Australia, and Miss Henrietta Fergusson, third daughter of the late Sir Charles Dalrymple Fergusson, Bart., and sister of the Right Hon. Sir James Fergusson, Bart., Governor of Bombay.

The absence (says the *Post*) of so many members of the family of the ducal house of Hamilton from the marriage of the Earl of Durham was occasioned by their presence at Baron's Court, Ireland, during the festivities consequent on the celebration of the golden wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Abercorn.

THE PROGRAMME FOR NEXT SESSION.—Mr Craig Sellar, M.P., writing to his constituents at Jedburgh, states that the great measure of next sesion will, in all probability, be a Local Government Bill of a comprehensive character, for which there is more necessity in England than in Scotland. There is a great scheme in preparation, and not far from completion, dealing with municipal reform in London. That measure is much wanted, and will materially affect the well-being of a population of four millions, who are living under the most anomalous rule of any population in Europe. Among other subjects likely to be brought forward are a Bankruptcy Bill, Patent Laws, and a Corrupt Practices Bill.

THE OPENING OF KEW GARDENS.—A meeting was held at Kew on Saturday to protest against the late hour at which Kew Gardens are opened, and other restrictions which are placed upon the public enjoyment of the gardens. Mr. Joseph Beaumont presided, and said in asking for the opening of the gardens at ten o'clock instead of one they were doing nothing to injure or impede the scientific objects of the gardens, for the report of the director did not reveal one single operation which would be in any way interfered with by the admission of the public at an earlier hour. Resolutions in accordance with the purpose of the meeting were adopted.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE LATE CAMPAIGN.

Sir S. NORTHCOTE gave notice of his intention to ask whether gratuities were to be proposed to Sir B. Seymour and to Sir G. Wolseley this Session, and, if so, whether it would be necessary to "set up" Supply for that purpose. Also out of what funds the expenses of the army now in Egypt were being paid, and whether it was intended to propose any vote this Session.

In answer to a question from Mr. ONSLOW as to the business of the Session, Mr. GLADSTONE said he had nothing to add to his answer of Tuesday last as to the possibility of discussing the general arrangements for the settlement of Egypt this Session, but if there were any part of the plan sufficiently complete before the end of the Session, and capable of being disconnected from the rest, he would be glad to lay it before the House. As to the financial part of the matter, the Government had received no further information. Mr. Bourke remarked that there were several questions in regard to the position of Arabi Pacha which could hardly be delayed—for instance, why had he been delivered up to the Khedive, what were the charges on which he was to be tried, and by what international right the Government had demanded that British officers should be present at his trial. Mr. Gladstone, with regard to this last point, said it was a spontaneous offer of the Khedive's Government, but was understood to admit that the questions mentioned were open for discussion.

In answer to a question from Captain Aylmer as to the alleged breakdown of the Commissariat and Transport, Mr. CHILDERS denied that there had been anything like a breakdown, but said he would state what course he intended to pursue after he had received an exhaustive report, which had been promised him by Sir G. Wolseley. Pressed by Mr. Carrington, Sir H. Verney, and others to refer the inquiry into the Medical Department to a Royal Commission or a Select Committee, Mr. Childers declined to depart from his declared intention of inquiry by means of a War Office Committee.

THE PALMER EXPEDITION.

In answer to questions from Mr. Ritchie and others, Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN read a long narrative of the circumstances under which Professor Palmer and his companions had been employed by the Naval Authorities and the objects of their respective missions. In regard to an escort, he said that had never been mentioned, and he believed it had not been considered necessary, and while there could be no doubt that Captain Gill and Lieutenant Charrington had been killed in the attack of the Bedouins, the evidence as to Professor Palmer was not conclusive.

THE PROCEDURE RESOLUTIONS.

On the motion of Sir H. Maxwell, it was ordered that Sir J. Hay and Sir E. Colebrooke be added to the Committee on Mr. Gray's case, and the House then resumed the adjourned debate on the Procedure Resolutions.

The first amendment moved was by Mr. Bryce, and it provided that the Speaker or Chairman shall only put the clôture in operation on the request of a Minister of the Crown or the member in charge of the Bill or Motion. His object, he said, was twofold—to strengthen the Rule, which he feared would not be put into operation often enough if left to the Chair, and to put the impartiality of the Chair beyond all possibility of attack. Mr. Gladstone, however, objected that to bring in the intervention of the Minister or a private member would be derogatory to the dignity of the Chair, and would hamper the Chair without relieving it. He thought, too, that it would be unfair to the minority as placing them more directly at the mercy of the majority. Mr. Raikes supported the amendment, thinking that whatever pressure there was should be open and not indirect; and Mr. Cowen, on the same side, urged that to leave the initiative entirely to the Speaker would place him in a most invidious position, and that the responsibility, as far as possible, should be placed on the House. Mr. Balfour, Mr. Chaplin, Mr. E. Clarke, Mr. Warton, and Mr. Daly also supported the amendment, while Mr. Whitbread, Sir W. Harcourt, Mr. B. Hope, Mr. W. Fowler, and Mr. H. Fowler objected to linking the judicial functions of the Chair with political or party influences. On a division, the amendment was negatived by 152 to 100.

After this Mr. H. PALMER moved that the Speaker's initiatory steps shall be confirmed by 20 members rising in their places, which was opposed by Mr. Gladstone and supported by Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir S. Northcote, and others, but rejected, after a short debate, without a division. Sir H. Taylor proposed that the Speaker, instead of closing the debate, shall limit it—that is, that no member shall afterwards be allowed to speak more than 10 minutes, but he did not proceed to a division. Mr. Gibson moved that the Speaker, before putting the clôture into operation, shall give a certain notice, the length to be left to his discretion, and Mr. Gladstone, in opposing it as unnecessary and unworkable, took occasion once more to protest in emphatic language that no more baseless vision could be imagined than the apprehensins of the other side that the Speaker of the future would be the creature of the Ministry. After some debate the amendment was negatived by 149 to 88.

The question of notice was still further discussed on an amendment by Captain AYLMER, who proposed that when the clôture has been carried, the main question at issue shall not be put until the next sitting but one. This was negatived by 145 to 89, and Mr. Hicks moved an amendment, providing that the clôture shall not be applied to a Ministerial measure until the end of the fourth night of the debate. After a short debate, Mr. Hicks withdrew his proposal, and the House adjourned at 20 minutes to 1 o'clock.

THE EGYPTIAN PRISONERS.

The Cairo Correspondent of the *Times* telegraphing on Monday says:—To-day the preparations for the trial have advanced a stage. Mr. Broadley has accepted the retainers of Toulba Pacha, Yakoub Sami Pacha, Osman Fazi Pacha, and Ahmed Rifaat Bey. He had a prolonged interview with each, and decided only to defend these prisoners with the other four, and has written to this effect to the Egyptian Government.—Mahmoud Sami will alone be defended by a young Arab lawyer chosen from a list of 80 submitted to all the prisoners by the authorities some weeks ago. He will not be tried with the other prisoners.—Ismail Eyoub, the president of the Commission, to-day addressed a letter to Messrs. Broadley and Napier, expressing the cordial approval of the Egyptian Government at their being nominated to defend the eight prisoners.—Arabi has presented to his counsel very long lists of documents which he asks to be produced and witnesses to call, laying particular stress on those who conducted the Stamboul intrigues. The preliminary inquiry will be indefinitely adjourned to-morrow until the communication of the evidence already taken is completed.

The prisoner Osman Fazi is accused of high treason by plotting to secure the succession of Halim to the Khedivate, and transmitting money to some of Arabi's associates—a fact which Arabi himself very strongly denies. There is a growing feeling that the present uncertainty caused by the trial must be terminated if we are anxious to avoid a fresh outbreak in every quarter where the troops have not yet been seen, but, unfortunately, the greater portion of the army is leaving before the main object of the campaign is even attempted. Throughout the interior, except on the main lines of railway, insecurity is as great as before the war. Our inaction now, like our month's inaction after the bombardment, is fostering disaffection, and will ultimately cause loss of life, which now, as then, might be lessened, if not altogether avoided, by prompt action. Decrees have been signed naming Mr. Hills a Judge of the Court of Appeal instead of Mr. Scott, and Mr. Wallis, late British Consul at Port Said, in place of Mr. Hills at the Tribunal of First Instance. A Commission will be named consisting of Europeans and natives, under the presidency of the Minister of Justice, to consider the question of judicial reform and elaborate a code. The idea is excellent. It only requires Nubar to render it useful. Judicial reform without Nubar is about as likely to be effective as Generalissimo Baker without an army. It is stated that Sir E. Malet has suggested to the Government that the surplus arms should be sold and the proceeds devoted towards the war indemnity. The following incident is a fair example of Egyptian public feeling. Arabi's child being dangerously ill, no native doctor could be found willing to visit it. It is now nursed by Lady Strangford and Dr. Sieveking.

M. John Ninet writes to the *Times*:—Sir Charles Dilke has said in the House of Parliament that I made no complaint to Colonel Wilson of illtreatment while in prison at Cairo. I complained not only to him, but to Colonel Butler, who had been sent by Sir Garnet Wolseley to question me on matters connected with the war. I wrote also three times to Sir Edward Malet, telling him that I was sick, without medical help, and that I believed my life was threatened. Colonel Wilson, when I met him, was kind, and expressed his amazement that the wounded officers imprisoned should be without a doctor, and also at the filth. If the other prisoners did not complain to him it is because they dared not in the presence of the Governor's officials (Syrian Christians as cruel as Circassians) and because he scarcely knows any Arabic. I hear for the first time that Sir Edward Malet suggested my release; for this I thank him. But did he suggest, too, that I should be released with thumbscrews on my hands, and transported to a worse prison at Alexandria? Did he suggest, as the chief gaoler (a Circassian) there affirmed, that I was no Swiss citizen, but a Rayah from Roumelia? Did he suggest that I should be embarked for Smyrna with a false passport? I thank him for his goodwill, but these were the circumstances of my release. I am prepared now to relate the facts already told, with more full details, on oath if required, before any commission which Sir Charles Dilke may cause to be appointed, or to any member of Parliament interested in learning the truth. I have still more to say, and I am able to give the names of many respectable men whom I have seen in chains, among them especially that of Ahmet Awâna, who was turned out of the Cadastre last year for having written a report displeasing to the Controller-General. He had been 72 days in chains when I saw him at Alexandria. I add a list of respectable persons with whom I was personally acquainted, and whom I found in the Borgho prisons at Alexandria in irons:—Mohammed Effendi Ghaleb, officer of the staff; he speaks English; in irons. Ahmed Effendi Mulazim, officer on the staff; in irons. Ahmed Wasef Effendi, an officer; in irons. These had been taken in a reconnoissance before Kafrdawar, and had been from 50 to 60 days in prison. Ahmed Awwam Effendi, interpreter in the Ministry of Marine; arrested on the 14th of July and delivered to custody of the British authorities. By them he told me he was well treated, but having written to the Viceroy complaining of his imprisonment without charge, he was given back to the Circassian authority and placed in the Borgho. He talks French and English. He was in irons. Ali el Jellabi, a Mogrebbin merchant of Alexandria; in irons. Abdu Ben el Zemni, a Mogrebbin, a literary man; in irons. There were also between 15 and 20 other prisoners there, in irons, whose names I do not know, though some I knew by sight. In a hole half underground were three acqnaintances:—Abd el Kader Ganiani, merchant of Alexandria; his brother, also named Ganiani, member of the Egyptian Parliament—these two not in irons; and a regiment tailor, in irons. I also heard, during my imprisonment at Cairo, from certain servants of the late Mudir of Minieh, who came on business to one of the prisoners there, that their master had recently been treated as follows;—He and his brother were set for two days to cleanse the streets of Minieh; they had their faces and hair smeared with dirt; and on the third day the Mudir received 800 blows of the courbash and was not expected to recover. This treatment they affirmed was inflicted by order of Sultan Pacha, in consequence of a private enmity and in revenge for a lawsuit instituted by their master against Sultan Pacha during the war. I was also told by several of the prisoners that many of the Liberal deputies were then in prison in the provinces, and had been beaten with the courbash. I can state of my personal knowledge that in the Borgho the gaolers were constantly armed with rope-ends, which they used freely on the bodies of their prisoners.

THE TROOPS FROM EGYPT.

SIR GARNET WOLSELEY AT BALMORAL.

Sir Garnet Wolseley, having received the Queen's command to proceed to Balmoral, left London by the night mail train on Sunday travelling by the East Coast route. So quiet was the departure effected that few even of his fellow passengers were aware that he was in the train; nor had the intelligence of his departure preceded him to Edinburgh, for there was no crowd at the station in the early morning. When Sir Garnet stepped out of the train at Perth station, a cheer was raised by a throng of eager watchers, who had gathered in anticipation of his coming. At Aberdeen a still greater crowd had assembled, though even there Sir Garnet's presence was not fully realised till he had gone. The train by which he travelled was ten minutes late. This enabled the Earl of Aberdeen, who came by the north train, due at the same time, to be on the platform to receive Sir Garnet on his arrival. Along with the Earl of Aberdeen were the leading Civic Dignitaries, including the Lord Provost, the Magistrates, and the City Chamberlain, with several of the leading citizens. When the train arrived Sir Garnet Wolseley stepped out of the saloon carriage, and, at once recognising Lord Aberdeen, shook hands with the noble Earl, who introduced the Lord Provost and Magistrates. A crowd at once gathered round him as he stood in conversation with the Earl of Aberdeen, who congratulated him on the success of the campaign. Lord Aberdeen then called for three hearty cheers, which were given with true Highland warmth, and which Sir Garnet acknowledged by raising his hat and bowing. Another cheer was given for Lady Wolseley, and a gentleman in the crowd called for "Three cheers for the Highland brigade." In this compliment to the Highlanders Sir Garnet heartily joined. Sir Garnet then left the station, the crowd cheering him all the time, and a lusty shout of "Well done, Wolseley," was raised as he drove off in a cab with the Lord Provost for the purpose of viewing the sights of the city during the interval before the departure of the Deeside train. In Union-street the cab was exchanged for an open carriage, and in this the party drove through the principal thoroughfares. In the course of the drive the gallant General was recognised by numbers of people in the streets, and hats were frequently raised out of compliment to him. At the station the crowd had increased, and the General's progress to the carriage was through a dense throng of people, who cheered him so heartily that he bowed and lifted his hat all the way. He re-entered the carriage, which had been shunted on to the Deeside line, and was accompanied by the Earl of Aberdeen. Three more Highland cheers signalised the departure of the train, which arrived at Ballater a few minutes behind time. There was a large number of visitors at the station. A guard of honour composed of Highlanders was drawn up at the station to receive Sir Garnet, and General Sir Henry Ponsonby drove from Balmoral to meet him at the station. On alighting from the train the General was received with ringing cheers, and, having taken his seat in the carriage sent from Balmoral, he drove off amid great enthusiasm on the part of the crowd that had assembled to welcome him. A Dublin correspondent says it is in contemplation to present Sir Garnet Wolseley with an Address of welcome and congratulation from his Irish fellow-countrymen.

The Isle of Wight accorded an enthusiastic reception to the 72d Regiment (the Seaforth Highlanders) on their arrival at Cowes on Monday afternoon, *en route* for Parkhurst Barracks. The regiment returned from Egypt in the *Caspian*, which reached Portsmouth about nine o'clock in the morning. Being transferred to the *Medina*, gun boat, Captain Dodd, they were taken across the Solent on her, and reached the Commercial Wharf, the Point at West Cowes, about three. A the *Medina* steamed into the Cowes waters the band of the regiment played in slow measure "Home, sweet home," and before landing "Rule Britannia." Ashore they were received by the Isle of Wight Rifle Volunteers, whose band took up the refrain, "Home, sweet home." The town was profuse with bunting, and the whole scene was one of unusual animation. On the regiment arriving at the Town Hall there was a halt, and the Chairman and members of the Local Board were introduced to the officers. The Chairman, Mr. G. H. Coursens, read the following address:—"To the Colonel in command, Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and Men of the Seaforth Highlanders,—We, the inhabitants of West Cowes, hasten to give you a heartfelt welcome on your safe arrival home from the scene of the brilliant campaign in Egypt, and particularly to give earnest expression of our appreciation of your gallantry and courage, which so much contributed to the glorious victory of Tel-el-Kebir. The valour, patience, and fortitude you have always shown, both in India and Egypt, under a tropical sun and under circumstances the most calculated to test the physical endurance and courage of the soldier, have won our admiration, and have never been surpassed (cheers). We trust that a residence in the Isle of Wight may recruit your health and strength after the hardships you have undergone, and that you may be spared for years to come to reflect with pleasure on the gallant services you have performed in support of the glory and honour of your country" (cheers). Mr. Coursens added that the address he had just read was only a very small echo of the sentiments of the whole of the United Kingdom in receiving home those gallant men who had taken part in the brilliant campaign which had just terminated so favourably to our arms (loud cheers). Major Kelsey briefly thanked them for their warm expressions of welcome, adding that they considered themselves fortunate in being quartered in their beautiful Isle of Wight. As the regiment marched through the dense mass of spectators ringing cheers were given by the bystanders, and the excitement and enthusiasm were almost unbounded. The Volunteers, representing every Company in the Isle of Wight, accompanied the Highlanders on their march from Cowes to Parkhurst Barracks, a distance of four miles.

A portion of the Indian troops selected to visit England before returning home are on their way in the *Lusitania*, one of the Orient Liners, which left Alexandria on Friday last for Portsmouth. They consist of 13 native officers and 19 of the men, with one follower, and they are expected to arrive about the 10th of November. Colonel Pennington is coming home in charge of them. The *Lusitania* has also on board a large number of other troops returning from the war, including the 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish Fusiliers (21 officers and 720 men), ten officers of the Foot Guards, and seven officers and 21 men of various regiments. Several other transports are on the homeward journey, and are daily expected. The *Teviot* has brought the guns and equipment of the siege train to Woolwich, and is returning them into store at the Royal Arsenal; and the *Pelican*, with the Artillerymen forming the ammunition column, is due to morrow. She also brings the Household Cavalry Reserve and some mules, for which she called at Gibraltar. The *Libra* and the *Osprey* are also expected to reach Woolwich this week.

An interesting document has been received at Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, a copy of which has been distributed to each of the sick and wounded soldiers from Egypt. It is in the form of a letter, signed by fourteen ladies connected with the Army—wives and widows of Generals and other officers—and it is to the following effect:—That the sick and wounded have their heartiest sympathy, and that they regret that they have no opportunity of testifying their appreciation of their services by contributing to their comfort, seeing that their wants are amply supplied by Government. They congratulate them on the victory achieved in Egypt. They tell them how a thousand ladies responded to the call for nurses to go out to tend the wounded in the campaign, thougth the services of so many were not required.

Major General Sir Evelyn Wood, V.C., K.C.B., who commanded one of the brigades during the campaign in Egypt, arrived at Chatham on Sunday. A public reception would have been accorded the gallant General, but he arrived sooner than was anticipated, having made part of the journey by the overland route.

THE FIRE IN A PULLMAN EXPRESS.

The burning of a passenger in his sleeping berth in a Pullman express is one of the most ghastly stories of modern travel. Further accounts throw but little additional light on the cause of this most melancholy disaster. None of the suppositions hitherto advanced quite agree with the facts as they are stated. The sleeping car is heated by a stove, and Mr. Cranston, a passenger, who perceived a sulphurous smell just as he was composing himself to sleep, thought something was the matter with the stove; but the fire does not appear to have originated in the part of the car in which the stove was placed. Nor could it have arisen from a heated axle, as it was from above, not from below, that it seems to have spread. The centre of the fire appears to have been the compartment in which Dr. Arthur was sleeping; and the railway officials are said to incline to the theory that he set the bedclothes on fire by smoking in his berth. This theory seems to us, with the information now before us, to be altogether untenable. There is not the least foundation for it. If he had been smoking the smell perceived by Mr. Cranston would have been that of tobacco and not of sulphur; and it would have been the duty of the conductor of the car to stop the smoker. The linen and the heavy woollens which form the bedclothes of a sleeping car are, moreover, very unlikely to catch fire from a spark from a tobacco pipe; and if they did so the flame would begin near the top of the bed, not at its foot. It is almost impossible that a fire should originate from a man's smoking in bed, and yet his face be the only part of his body which was not burnt. The same may be said of the firing of the bedclothes by a reading-lamp, which would be at the head and not at the foot of the bed. So far, therefore, as present information goes, there is no need to add to the grief of Dr. Arthur's friends by charging him with contributory negligence in setting his own berth on fire. He could scarcely have done this in any way without being woke by the flames, and it seems most likely that he was smothered by the smoke in his sleep before the actual fire reached him. The fire might have ori-

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MR. GLADSTONE AND THE CLOTURE.

Undoubtedly the manner in which Mr. Gladstone has met the demand for giving an appeal on the question of the clôture to a two-thirds majority is not calculated to abate the bitterness of party feeling. Mr. Gibson's speech on Tuesday brought together forcibly and compactly most of the arguments against clôture by a bare majority with which our readers have been familiar for many months. There is no sign in the Prime Minister's eloquent and most ingenious presentation of the Ministerial case of a serious attempt to grapple with those arguments. On Tuesday, as on former occasions, the cardinal question was shrouded in a gorgeous cloud of rhetoric. Mr. Gladstone relied for his central effects upon the ideal, which he touched with a masterly hand, of the dignity and impartiality of the Speaker, contending that no other guarantees for free speech and full discussion could be needed than that supplied by the character of the eminent person in the Chair. This appeal to a fallacy of the imagination, projecting our notions of the past and the present into the future, evades the important fact that the power of the clôture will be far more frequently exercised by the Chairman of Committees than by the Speaker. But the truth is that Mr. Gladstone's appeal to personal character as dispensing with any formal guarantees is one which would be admitted in no other department of Government. We do not place implicit confidence even in the Sovereign, the Ministers of the Crown, or the Houses of Parliament themselves. It was the complaint of the Stuart Kings that their subjects would not trust them; but it is now well understood that it involves no disrespect to King, President, or Minister to insist on the observance of checks. The strength of a chain is measured by that of the weakest link of it. It is necessary to provide against the possibility, and still more against the suspicion, of partisanship in the Chair. In foreign countries, the example of which Mr. Gladstone was the first to cite—though we are glad to see he has now abandoned this argument, in which some startling inaccuracies were pointed out by Mr. Gibson—partisan Presidents and Speakers are too well known, and are highly appreciated by their party friends. Mr. Gladstone asserts that no Speaker could unfairly close debate in reliance on the vote of a bare majority; and, furthermore, that if any Speaker dared to do so he would be driven from his high place. These assertions are in the nature of prophecy, and are, therefore, out of the region of reasoning. All we know is that, in other countries, where the clôture by a bare majority is the rule, what Mr. Gladstone declares to be beyond imagination or possibility is among the ordinary incidents of public life.—*Times.*

M. CLEMENCEAU AND M. GAMBETTA.

M. Clémenceau must have been reminded by his reception at Montmartre of M. Gambetta's earlier experiences in Belleville. Like the man whom he has supplanted in the affections of the Paris Radicals, he has had notice to quit. He is now visibly at the top of that inclined plane down which M. Gambetta has travelled so rapidly. He is as yet more fortunate than M. Gambetta, in that the party which finds M. Clémenceau too conservative for its tastes is still in want of a chief. If there had been no one politician more conspicuous than another among the deputies of the Extreme Left, their breach with M. Gambetta might have taken somewhat more time to bring about. M. Clémenceau's superiority alike in oratory and in strategy from the first marked him out as a leader. There was never any doubt as to who should fill M. Gambetta's place, but only as to the moment when M. Gambetta's place should be declared empty. No such predestined successor to M. Clémenceau has yet been revealed; and so long as no man appears to give voice to the discontent which the most extreme section of the Extreme Left is beginning to feel in him he may hold his own against Radical opposition. But a demand of this sort seldom goes long unsupplied; and now that Sunday's meeting has shown unmistakeably that M. Clémenceau has lost the confidence of a large minority among his constituents—and that, too, a minority superior "in strength of muscles and sinews"—we may look with confidence to the apperance of a new comet in the Radical sky. M. Clémenceau's "Opportunist" references to the Montceau outrages are not likely to be popular with the more determined electors in Montmartre. Even if M. Clémenceau had confined himself to excuses, and left the blame out, a portion of his hearers would have quarrelled with him for not turning implied condonation into positive praise. Even in Lyons it seems that the Republican papers of all shades are more angry with the Government for protecting the person of the Archbishop than for not acting vigorously enough to make such personal protection unnecessary. The fact that he is an archbishop ought, they argue, to outweigh the fact that he is exposed to special danger. The received theory indeed with these journals is that the recent outrages are either directly or indirectly the work of the Clericals. According to some, it is a Clerical plot which has been artfully arranged to seem the handiwork of the Socialists. According to others, it is the work of the Socialists, provoked beyond endurance by the irritating spectacle of Government countenanace extended to a false and degrading creed. Explanations of this sort show plainly enough that those who offer them feel that as yet the readers for whom they write cannot forget that the outrages were directed against the common enemy. They do not like to see dynamite used even against a church or a crucifix, because dynamite has an inconvenient capacity of being used against forms of property which they themselves hold dear. But still it was against churches and crucifixes that it was employed; and the redeeming circumstance must not be altogether lost out of sight when sitting in judgment on the authors of the outrages. With these views prevailing in a great part of the Left, and with the Right and the Centre—if there can still be said to be a Centre in France—sitting by in pleased appreciation of the inability of the Republic to discharge the first duty of every Government, M. Duclerc and his colleagues have an unsatisfactory prospect in front of them.—*St. James's Gazette.*

THE EGYPTIAN TRIALS.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Tuesday:—

M. de Lesseps has telegraphed that he transmits his declaration by post, and confirms the statements already transmitted to the President of the Commission. M. de Lesseps's evidence is generally considered as unfavourable to Arabi, as proving conclusively that whenever he exerted himself to prevent outrage he was able to do so. Further evidence will be adduced in the same sense—that he saved Mr. De Chair's life against the wish of Toulba, and that he stopped the Alexandria massacre by a telegraphic order to the troops—and the prosecution urge that it is impossible to relieve from responsibility a man who was able to exercise such power, and who so seldom used it to repress outrage; that it is impossible to believe that the man who held this power could not have stopped massacres, incendiarism, and pillage had he wished to.

Ismail Eyoub, in introducing the counsel to the members of the Commission, welcomed their appearance as a guarantee for the fairness of the inquiry, which would necessarily be conducted under the eyes of Europe. He considered the institution of such a regular trial not one of the least benefits conferred by England on Egypt, and it constituted an important epoch in Egypt's judicial history. He assurred the counsel that the sole object of the Commission was to ascertain the truth.

The prosecution began to-day to furnish counsel with copies of evidence. The prisoners complain bitterly of the continual attacks made on them by the Turkish Press, particularly *El Jawaib*, which six months ago encouraged their plans and extolled them as defenders of Islam. It is said that Arabi is prepairing an answer to the article which denounced him as a rebel and demanded his execution.

The correspondent of the *Standard* at Cairo telegraphed on Tuesday evening:—

Great efforts have been made by the Egyptian authorities since the arrival upon the scene of the English counsel to obtain fresh evidence implicating the accused with the massacres of Alexandria. Reports are current to the effect that they have succeeded in so doing, but I believe that there is no foundation whatever for these statements. It has transpired, indeed, that much of the evidence already brought forward is entirely irrelevant to the case, and that a portion of the evidence consists merely of letters addressed to the Commission from different parts of the country, without signature, or any evidence whatever of the *bonâ fides* of the writers. Messrs. Broadley and Napier were to-day introduced to the members of the Commission of Inquiry by the President, who, after the usual compliments, expressed a hope that they would carry away with them a favourable impression of the equity and impartiality of Egyptian Judges.

The Government have at present under their consideration various schemes for the pacification of the Soudan. Among them is one prepared by Ismail Pacha Eyoub, now President of the Commission of Inquiry. He was formerly Governor of Khartoum, and bears a good reputation for his conduct there. This scheme, however, in common with others submitted, is drawn up with a total disregard of the practical side of the question, and has been discarded owing to the large expense which would be required to carry out his plans. It is now decided to equip with the utmost speed a small force, which will be immediately forwarded in the hope of saving Khartoum. Should they arrive in time they will, if possible, hold the place untill further forces can be organised and sent up. It is considered to be of the utmost importance to check the advance of the False Prophet until the complete reorganisation of the Army allows of an offensive movement being undertaken against the invader.

THE LYONS WEAVERS.

More complete information from our Special Correspondent at Lyons confirms the opinion we have already advanced that at the bottom of the discontent among the working classes lies poverty. While the maximum wages of a silk-weaver do not reach a pound a week, all the prime necessaries of life are much dearer in Lyons than in the English manufacturing towns, which have tided over many bitter bad times, thanks to cheap fuel and the cheap bread, cheese, and bacon due to Free Trade:—

The evil effect of heavy imposts is severely felt just now in France, for the excise duty on dynamite is so heavy that the surreptitious manufacture of it is very profitable and largely carried on, a fact which places this tremendous weapon quite within the hands of the anarchists, while the Protective tariff keeps up the price of food and fuel. As there is in France no legal provision for the destitute, the effect of low wages, insufficient employment, and the dearness of the necessaries of life is that evil counsellor, despair. As not only the weavers, but the dyers and labourers in chemical works are in sore straits, it is proposed to call a public meeting at Croix Rouge on Saturday night to devise means for grappling with the industrial difficulty. It will be proposed to form a permanent Labour Defence Committee, whose duty it will be to demand the organization of public workshops and the distribution of relief at the Mairies. The institution of public workshops is not a new idea, and is under the disadvantage of having failed signally when it was tried. M. Louis Blanc has over and over again had this failure laid at his door, whereas, in fact, the system tried was not that proposed by him. It might be thought that a town of the wealth and magnitude of Lyons should hardly require in times of distress the succour of the nation. When evil times came on Manchester a few years ago, there was not only no hint of appeal to the State, but when London held out a helping hand to the suffering city, Manchester gratefully but firmly refused the proffered aid, thinking that she could "fend for herself."—*Daily News.*

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE PROCEDURE RESOLUTIONS.

The Ajourned Debate on the Procedure Resolutions was resumed, and after a verbal amendment by Mr. Warton had been made in the First Resolution,

Mr. GIBSON moved his amendment, which provides that in no case shall the clôture be enforced unless it be supported by two-thirds of those present. In the first place, he remarked that this was the greatest change ever proposed in the *status* of the Opposition, and that it was the first proposal ever formally made to deprive it of its traditional and constitutional functions. He protested also that the Opposition admitted the necessity of reform, and were ready to co-operate in any scheme which did not leave a rankling sense of injustice. Replying to Mr. Gladstone's speech in introducing the subject in February last, he maintained that his references to the Colonial precedents and the practice of European Legislatures were entirely erroneous, and afforded no argument for this innovation, and quoted against it former declarations of Mr. Gladstone himself and of other Ministers. Canvassing the particular form in which the clôture was proposed, he showed that while one man in a thin House could prevent a debate being stopped, the same single individual in a full House could actually stop the debate, and he urged, moreover, that while obstruction was acknowledged to proceed only from a small section, small majorities would be effectually protected by the Rule, while large majorities might be gagged with the greatest ease. While feeling perfectly safe in the hands of the existing authorities, he augured from the manner in which the party opposite had presented the Resolution that hereafter they would elect Speaker and Chairman for the express purpose of carrying out despotic power in a partisan spirit. As to the "evident sense" that would be signified either by the obstreperous clamour of the Ministerial side, or by the insidious whispers of the whips. If the "evident sense" meant the general sense, and not merely of one party, why not express that in the Resolution?—for, as it ran at present, the "evident sense" and the "bare majority" were contradictions in turns. He put it to the Ministerial party—how many of them would have voted for the bare majority if proposed by the Conservatives, and he called on the Prime Minister to explain why he had made the offer of a compromise in May last, and why he had withdrawn it. Finally, he denounced the proposal as intended to crush the Opposition, as certain to degrade the character and authority of the Chair, and to reduce the House itself into the position of a kind of superior department of the Government of the day.

MR GLADSTONE pointed out that the question was not the clôture which had already been affirmed, but whether it should be applied by an artificial majority. As to colonial experience, he admitted that it did not afford an argument for the proposal; but the Government, he said, did not ask for this power because it was a good thing *per se*, but because they thought it was better than to allow the House to sink into a condition of impotence. As to the offer of May last, he admitted that the policy of it was doubtful; but the Government then estimated that if they could get rid of procedure they would have six weeks left for the general business of the country, and they were ready to pay that heavy price for the advantage. As to the fears of the Opposition, he repeated his profound conviction that the Speaker could not and would not, and that he would not dare to deviate from his impartiality, and that any Minister or party who attempted to abuse the Rule would be speedily visited with absolute ruin. For small minorities the Rule provided ample securities, and to gag a large majority was absolutely impossible. Within a month, he maintained, an Opposition, smarting under a sense of injustice and oppression, would have no difficulty in unseating the Speaker and bringing the business of the House to a standstill. He objected to the two-thirds majority because it was unjust to small minorities, inasmuch as the numerical safeguards now contained in the Resolution could not be worked with it and must speedily be dropped out. It was unjust also to the majority, as it handed over their rights to the minority, and paralyzed their power to discharge the duties which they had undertaken towards the country. Finally, he said that the Government, having fully considered the point, had come to the conclusion that it would be an excess of pressure and a trespass on the jurisdiction of the House to make this a question of confidence. Still they did not conceal their opinion that a two-thirds majority closure would not only be an inefficient system, but would be a deterioration of the present state of things, and worse than no clôture at all.

Mr. EGROYD, who supported the amendment, dwelt on the deterioration in the House and the injustice which might be inflicted by impatience; while Mr. Buxton, on the other side, ridiculed the fears of the Opposition, and pointed out all the safeguards against injustice or oppression.

Mr. GREGORY feared that the proposed remedy went beyond the necessity, and protested his ignorance of any occasion when it had been found difficult to bring a debate to a close by amicable arrangement.

Mr. SALT argued that the bare majority was not needed to put down the illegitimate obstruction with which alone the country had been given to understand the House was dealing, and the result of the rule, as now drawn, would prevent members of the minorities doing their duty.

MR. A. MORLEY thought the dangers and inconveniences of the present state of things surpassed the worst which had been prophesied of the *clôture;* and Mr. Buchanan also opposed the amendment.

MR. WHITLEY held that the "evident sense" of the House logically led to a two-thirds majority. Colonel Alexander, on the same side, showed that the Prime Minister had entirely misrepresented the practice of Colonial Legislatures, and earnestly appealed to the independent Liberals to shake off the pressure of the caucus; while Mr. Alderman Fowler held it to be settled beyond dispute by Mr. Gladstone's speech that the object was to gag the Conservative party, which, he maintained, had never been guilty of obstruction.

MR. HENEAGE repeated Mr. Gladstone's argument that the amendment would place the power which ought to belong to the majority in the hands of the minority, and Mr. Davey, who also took the same objection, held that the *onus* of proof lay on those who proposed to depart from the constitutional practice of deciding all questions by a bare majority, and supported the resolution as it stood, because it would really promote freedom of discussion by stopping irrelevant speeches. Mr. Grantham supported the amendment, and Sir J. Lubbock argued in favour of the two-thirds majority that it would be more effective against the obstructives, while it would not have so drastic an effect on the regular Opposition. Irrelevance and obstruction generally, he pointed out, were dealt with in subsequent rules, and the members who would be stopped by this rule would be committing no Parliamentary offence at all. He warned the small minorities that the safeguards now contained in the rules would not last long, and though the rule might not be enforced very frequently at first, he foresaw that in time to come Ministries would be compelled by the pressure of opinion to use this instrument for passing measures in which their party was interested.

Mr. WHITBREAD protested against the introduction of the novel principle of numerical majorities and derided the fears of partial speakers and tyrannical Ministers.

Sir R. CROSS, who concluded the debate for the evening, argued from the speeches of the Prime Minister and Mr. Davey that the "cat was now out of the bag," and that the object was not to crush the little knot of Irish obstructives, but to silence the Conservative party, against which nothing in the nature of obstruction could be charged. Replying to Mr. Gladstone's speech, he asked how it was that if the two-thirds clôture was worse than none at all he had offered in May to accept it, instead of withdrawing the Rule altogether.

On the motion of Mr. O'DONNELL, the debate was adjoured, and the House rose at 10 minutes past 12 o'clock.

TROOPS FROM EGYPT.

The *Bolivar* transport arrived at Portsmouth on Tuesday morning with the Royal Marine Artillery. She has brough home 12 officers and 297 non-commissioned officers and men, or a total of 309 of all ranks. The officers are Colonel Tuson, Majors Ogle, Everett, and Donald, Captain and Adjutant Noble, Captains Wheeler, Tucker, Rawstone, and Burrows, and Lieutenants Grant, Orford, and Marshall, Staff Surgeon Mahon, R.N., and Surgeon Ellis. There was also a small detachment of the Army Service Corps on board. As the *Bolivar* came into the harbour the crews manned the yards and cheered with great heartiness. On arriving alongside the sheer jetty the *Bolivar* was inspected by Admiral Superintendent J. D. M'Crea, and subsequently by Admiral Ryder and Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar. During the morning Col. Mawbey, the commandant at Eastney, went on board, and was loudly cheered by the men. At eleven the Royal Marine Artillery commenced to disembark, and headed by their own band, they marched for the main gate, the reception along the line of route being enthusiastic. The decorations at the barracks were very profuse. On arriving at Eastney, the troops having formed three sides of a square, Major-General Adair, C.B., who, accompanied by his son, Captain and Adjutant Adair, R.M.L.I., and Colonel Meade, R.M.L.I., had gone before the battalion to await them on the parade ground, said: Officers, non-commissioned officers, gunners, and buglers of the Royal Marine Artillery—I am glad to be here to-day to welcome you on your return home. A few months ago most of you, nearly all of you, marched out of barracks with great hopes and high expectations as to what would take place, and your hopes and expectations have been realised. Colonel Tuson, wherever a shot has been fired, from Aug. 17 to Sept. 12, you were there. It is not for us to sound the praises of those who belong to us, but I do say that everybody in the Royal Marine Artillery, under the able command of Colonel Tuson, has thoroughly maintained the high name of the corps. (Cheers.) You have taken an active part in every engagement, and the men of the Royal Marine Artillery have always done their duty faithfully to their Queen and their country, thus maintaining the high character of the corps they belong to, and not only have you merited but won the admiration of everybody. War must bring with it hardships and privations, and these you cheerfully met and nobly endured, and they appear to have only stimulated you to further victory. History must again record the fact, that whether by sea or land, whether as artillery or infantry, the Royal Marines are equal to any occasion. (Cheers.) I will not individualise what was done at Alexandria, Ramleh, Kassassin, Mahuta, or at Tel-el-Kebir; but I must say the noble way in which you worked the guns of the Royal Horse Artillery, when they were handed over to you, and worked them, too, under a galling fire, contributed to the success of the day; and, if I am right, on that very 24th of August, Gunner Hamilton, by the admirable way in which he worked his gun, dismounted one or two of the enemy's guns. On the same day, Colour-sergeant White, when the enemy was advancing on the banks at Kassassin, twice, under a galling fire, advanced to the top of a bank, and on several occasions killed the horses of the advancing battery of the enemy, and thereby prevented their advance any further. Everyone did their duty nobly and splendidly. (Cheers.) I am only too glad to hear from your commanding officer that your conduct since going into camp till the action at Tel-el-Kebir, and then till coming home, was as exemplary as it was on the battlefield. I am afraid we miss out of the ranks of those who marched out of the barracks a great number of brave comrades who are not permitted to receive this grand ovation to-day. For all that, I am sure none of you, or of us, will forget the noble way they met their death. Honour each of them as they rest for all time. (Cheers.) Honour the brave who are departed while there are so many bright faces awaiting you. Dinner was afterwards served in the drill-shed, upwards of 1,000 of the corps, including the officers and men from Egypt, dining together, under the presidency of Colonel-Commandant Mawbey.

A meeting was held at the Westminster Palace Hotel, on Tuesday afternoon, in support of the proposal to entertain the Guards on their return from Egypt. Lord Algernon Percy, M.P., presided, and among those present were Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., Sir H. Verney, M.P., General Boileau, Surgeon-Major Christie, Mr. W. Bonwick, etc. The Chairman said it required very few words on his part to recommend this movement to the support of that meeting and the public. A general desire existed in Westminster that a reception should be given to the Foot Guards upon their return from Egypt similar to that given to the Household Cavalry in London and to other regiments in other parts of the country. (Hear.) It might be said that the Guards had not been engaged in such brilliant achievements as the Household Cavalry, but a soldier could not do more than cheerfully perform the duty allotted to him. (Hear, hear.) This the Guards had done. (Hear, hear.) They had undergone some very fatiguing and toilsome work, and at Tel-el-Kebir had, owing to the Egyptians firing so high, been even more exposed to the fire of the enemy than the first line. He was sure they all felt that the Guards were worthy of the welcome that they desired to give them. (Hear, hear.) They had proved themselves worthy successors of the men who fought at Waterloo, Alma, and Inkerman—(hear, hear)—and they had most cheerfully and fully performed the duties laid upon them by their Queen and country. (Hear, hear.) Negotiations had been entered into with the manager of the Aquarium, which could be placed entirely at their disposal for the night of the dinner It was suggested that the banquet should take place at the Aquarium, in the body of the hall, and that admission to the galleries should be by ticket, to be obtained at a certain price. It would be well if they could set apart a portion of the galleries for the wives of the non-commissioned officers and men, for he knew that having their wives present would much increase the pleasure of the men. (Hear, hear.) He moved that a banquet be given in the city of Westminster to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of her Majesty's Foot Guards upon their return from Egypt, provided that sufficient funds were subscribed.

Surgeon-Major Christie seconded this resolution, which was adopted. On the motion of Mr. Robert Mann, seconded by General Boileau, an executive committee was appointed. Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., who had just arrived, moved that Colonel Prendergast Walsh be appointed hon. sec., and said there could be no doubt that Westminster and the whole of London would respond heartily to this appeal to give the Foot Guards a cordial welcome. The Guards were at home in Westminster, and Westminster was proud of them. (Hear, hear.) Colonel Walsh was appointed hon. sec., and Mr. Walter Bonwick, of the Imperial Bank, hon. treasurer. Captain Hobson, manager of the Aquarium, said the building would accommodate 1,700 men at dinner on the ground floor. In answer to a question, the chairman said the ordinary charge for admission to the gallery would be raised, and the receipts from this source would go to the Royal Aquarium Company. A motion accepting Captain Hobson's offer of the gratuitous use of the ground floor was accepted, and thanks voted.

THE BURNING OF A PULLMAN CAR.

EXTRAORDINARY EVIDENCE.

The inquest on Dr. John Arthur, of Aberdeen, who was burnt to death on Sunday while asleep in a Pullman car, was opened on Tuesday morning before Mr. Malcolm, coroner, at the Leeds Town Hall. Colonel Yolland was present on behalf of the Board of Trade. The Midland Railway Company, the Pullman Car Company, and the relatives of the deceased, were all represented by solicitors. After the jury had been sworn, they went to view the wrecked car and the body of the deceased. The first witness called was Frank Carlisle, who said he had been a driver for eight years. He commenced to drive the train, which had the Westinghouse brake, at Normanton, where a fresh engine was put on. The officials ought to have examined the train at Normanton. They left Normanton at 1.57. He was approaching the Louth Junction distant signal when he looked round on the six-foot side of the engine, attracted by a continuous noise. He saw a reflection of the engine-light on the top of the Pullman car. He heard the alarm-bell ring shortly after looking round, and told the stoker to open the sand valve. He looked about in the meanwhile, and ultimately came to a standstill. He got off the engine and went back, and was told that the car was on fire. He received a signal to draw ahead. He stopped again, and then went to the car with some buckets of water. He then received a signal from the guard to go on again. They then took the train to a water crane, leaving the carriages behind the burning car where they were. They tried to get the crane to work, but it did not answer the purpose they expected. The crane was too low to go over the carriage top. Some men from Nicholson's chemical works then came up with buckets of water. He asked the conductor if all the passengers were out, and he replied that he was not certain—some had made their escape one way and some another, and he could not tell. He did not see any attempt to enter the car. The car was then put into a siding, and the rest of the train was taken on to Skipton.—Cross-examined, the witness said the reason why he did not stop immediately the bell rang was that his orders were that if the bell rang he was to look out for something of a serious nature.—A Juryman: There might have been a murder going on in a carriage, and that would have been of a serious nature, and yet you could not have seen it?—The Coroner: He acted on his instructions, gentlemen, you must not blame him. The rules are distinct enough.—By Colonel Yolland: The brake apparatus was in proper working order.

Joseph Coates a fireman in the service of the Midland Railway Company, said he was on duty with Carlisle on Saturday night. At Rothwell Haigh, he looked out, and saw nothing unusual. He was firing when he heard his mate give the back signal for Hunslet Junction. The signal was against them. Shortly after the alarm whistle went. He could not give any idea of the time that elapsed before they pulled up. They were near the signal when they came to a stand. On hearing the alarm signal he looked back and saw nothing unusual. His mate asked him if he saw anything, and he came to his side. Witness replied, "I think there is something wrong." He got upon the tender footplate box, and then saw the reflection of the engine fire on the top of the car. The danger signal continued to sound, and the driver put the brake on, and he opened the sand valve. The driver also answered the alarm signal. As soon as he dared he jumped off the engine, and ran back. When he saw that car was on fire he shouted for assistance. He saw a flame coming out of the window about the middle of the car at the right hand side. They had then got on to the Hunslet sidings.—Mr. Clements: Did you slacken speed on seeing the signal against you?—No, it was taken off as soon as we whistled.

James Lines, the guard, said he came up from St. Pancras with the North train. At St. Pancras he noticed the deceased having his luggage labelled for Edinburgh. The name on the luggage was Dr. Arthur. He saw the deceased in a first-class bogey carriage. He remarked to him that tickets were a trouble to night passengers, and that if he (deceased) would give him it he should not be troubled with it any more. The deceased held out a sixpence, which witness pushed away, and said "I don't want that—I want your ticket." He then told the ticket collector that he could not receive Dr. Arthur's ticket, and that he had better go for it himself. The gentleman appeared sleepy or gloomy. At Leicester he saw the gentleman again, and again at Bedford. He could not say whether he was in a smoking carriage. At Leicester he changed his luggage into the Pullman car. There was only part of it—a gun case and other small things. He remarked to the conductor, "Be careful about that gentleman. See his ticket, because I could not find it at St. Pancras." They next stopped at Trent and then at Sheffield, and lastly at Normanton; but witness did not see deceased at any of those stations.—Cross-examined by Mr. Middleton: Dr. Arthur seemed rather inclined to give his ticket up, but seemed sleepy or stupefied.—By Colonel Yolland: He did not see the deceased get into the car, and didn't know whether he got in by himself or was assisted in.

Mr. McGill, surgeon, Leeds, said he examined the body lying at the mortuary, and had come to the conclusion that it could not be less than 6ft. 1¼in. in height. It was that of a well-nourished young man. The witness described the appearance of the body, which was charred over nearly the whole surface, and said there was no trace of any cigar having been in the mouth of deceased.

The Coroner—Can you say whether death resulted from suffocation or otherwise?—Witness: The condition of the heart points to some extent to suffocation, but I should think that death was caused by general burning.

Alexander Thompson Arthur, surgeon, of Ben Rhydding, brother the deceased, said his brother was of the medical profession, and had resided for some years in Ceylon. His return home had been expected, and a telegram was sent by him from London on Saturday, to say he would reach Aberdeen next day. It was more than a year since he had seen deceased. His brother was over six feet three inches high, and he had no reason to doubt that the body at the mortuary was his.

Robert Donaldson, conductor of the car, said he had two berths occupied in his car on the train leaving St. Pancras on Saturday night by Messrs. Dove and Mann. At Leicester a tall gentleman joined the car, having a hat-case, a gun-case, and other luggage. The label on the hat-case was "Dr. Arthur, passenger to Columba." He wished witness good evening, and asked for a berth. Witness gave him one in line with the other two occupied. They were not on the stove side, but on the opposite side. Witness asked him for the 8s. extra required for the car ticket, and the deceased put his hand in his pocket but pulled no money out. He did not appear to have any, and he said he would pay witness in the morning. He asked if witness could give him anything to drink, at which witness laughed, and replied "I have only the soda, if you have the brandy." Deceased then asked for a soda glass and a bottle of soda, which witness got him. Taking out of his pocket a little bottle, he laughed and said, "Here is a drop of Egyptian brandy." He poured about two inches of the liquor in the glass. Witness filled it up with the soda water, and witness drank it off at one draft. Witness took the glass away, and on returning found the deceased sitting up. He asked deceased to go to bed, whereupon deceased lay on the berth without undressing. Witness said, "I would like to take your boots off, sir," but he did not answer, so witness pulled them off. The deceased had pulled off his coat before having the brandy, but after lying down he asked for his overcoat, as he wanted to take a cigar out of the pocket. He took one, put it in his mouth, and wanted witness to give him a light, which he distinctly refused to do. Witness then took the cigar from him. He did not resist, and witness broke the cigar and put it in the spill-box. He then put deceased's rug over him, drew the curtain, and nothing further took place until Mr. Scranton entered the car at Sheffield and took his berth. At Normanton all the passengers were settled down, but after leaving there he found Mr. Cranston had an ordinary lamp like those sold at bookstalls hanging in his berth, suspended by two hooks. Witness said, "Holloa, what have you got there?" Mr. Cranston replied, "It's all right, Donaldson, I will put it out immediately." On that witness buttoned the curtain, said "Good night," and went away. He could not say whether it was wrong to allow such a lamp. It was unusual, and there was a regulation that none of the car lamps were to be removed under any circumstance.—By Mr. Clements: When the car started the journey 10 lamps were burning, but only four were alight at the time of the disaster. He saw Dr. Arthur on the platform at St. Pancas, and on his diagram a berth was marked off for Dr. Arthur, but no one presented himself to claim it. That was the berth Mr. Cranston afterwards had. At this stage the inquiry was adjourned. The coroner intimated that in consequence of the evidence given, the passengers by the car and the ticket-collector at St. Pancas would have to be called upon.

LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM "THE WORLD.")

Before leaving Dublin, Lady Cowper gave a great impetus to art-needlework by putting an old and decaying school of needlework on a new footing, and using her influence to keep it going. I am happy to hear that now, under the able management of the Baroness Prochazka, the Irish School of Art Needlework in Clare-street is turning out most beautiful work. Through its agency many distressed gentlewomen have been given suitable employment, and the taste for artistic needlework has been much encouraged. Last week there was on view a set of highly-wrought embroideries and worked screens which will shortly be exhibited at Wrexham. Amongst those who have done much to spread the fame of this school are Lady Spencer, Lady Sara Spencer, the Duchess of St. Albans, Lady Waterford, Lady Powerscourt, Lady O'Hagan, Lady Gough, the Hon. Mrs. Dalrymple, etc.

The suppressing an Egyptian rebellion will be admitted to be a more expensive undertaking than had been contemplated, even with the departmental ingenuity which may be exercised in the way of minimising its apparent cost by a not altogether inexcusable adjustment of certain accounts. Including the expense of the Indian contingent, but irrespective of the financial liabilities arising from the army of occupation, I have information from a tolerably reliable source that six millions will be nearer the mark than four; and it must be remembered that a heavy naval expenditure has been incurred, whilst a considerable outlay for repairs to men-of-war has yet to be met, that cannot be conveniently reckoned in a parliamentary return of war expenses.

The two officers who died last week, one in Belgrave-square and the other at Malta, are the only two of the Household Brigade who have succumbed to the effects of the campaign. There are not a few circumstances which are more than usually sad in connection with the death of each. Colonel Balfour was not considered to be dangerously, or even seriously, wounded; indeed, brother officers in the Foot Guards, who had still to wait in Egypt, congratulated him on his good luck in being ordered home invalided. There seems to have been some strange management in the treatment of the wound, on board ship, on the way home; for, never being of robust constitution, the serious symptoms that might have been prevented took hold of him, and the sorrowful sequel of his home-coming is too well-known. Johnnie Weyland, of the 2d Life Guards, will be sadly missed by many an old Eton and Oxford man, as well as by the comrades of his later life. It was only at the end of the London season that he became engaged, and was about to send in his papers when the war broke out. He never arrived at the seat of operations, but, stricken down with fever at Cyprus, only arrived as far as Malta to die. He was the son of Mr. and Lady Catherine Weyland of Woodeaton, and the nephew of Lord Clanricarde, Lady Cork, Lady Margaret Beaumont, and Lady Harriet Wentworth.

There are a number of small but very important points which the late campaign has brought out into strong relief, and which ought to be thought over and improved before the next war; one was the lamentable deficiency of good clerks with the force. It may seem strange that pen and ink should be much wanted on active service; but, as a matter of fact, there is always a great deal of writing to be done, even where red tape is reduced to a minimum. In Mr. Childers's perfectly-organized expedition none of the staff-offices except that at headquarters were provided with efficient clerks. Staff-officers had to draft their own letters and memoranda, even to make a fair and second copy, as their penmen were incapable of writing plainly. In all the ordinary methods for simplifying clerical work, as known in a few of the public and all private offices, the expeditionary army was still more miserably off. I believe Sir Garnet, after infinite trouble, extracted a printing-press out of the Store Department, but it was not fully utilised for some time; and to the last there was a difficulty about securing good compositors. All the other processes were conspicuous by their absence, except one, the chromograph, or whatever it is called—that system of taking many impressions of a letter by using a particular kind of ink, and transferring it to a gelatinous surface. But the material of all these melted in the desert. There were no typewriters either, the most ingenious method of writing print. Worst of all, among all the clerks there were few, if any, shorthand-writers.

Here is a good yarn. A blue-jacket at Alexandria, in carrying out one of the multifarious duties which fell to Jack's lot during the Egyptian expedition, was assisting to remove some trusses of hay from the quay, and, stumbling along under the weight of a small haystack, not being able to see where he was going, pushed against a commissariat officer irreproachably clad in review dress. "Who the devil are you? and what are you doing here?" said the gentleman. "Who am I?" says Jack, "well, I don't altogether know. I used to be a British sailor; but now, it strikes me, I'm turned into a d—d commissariat mule!"

A clerical scandal is just now agitating a parish of South London. It would appear that the wife of the curate of a church frequented by a congregation which suburban society delights to call "fashionable" had given great offence to her neighbours by reason of the varying hues of her hair, her pencilled eyebrows, her artificial complexion, and her general dressy style. A deputation of ladies placed the matter before the vicar, who thereupon wrote to the curate, calling on

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MR. GLADSTONE AND THE CLOTURE.

Undoubtedly the manner in which Mr. Gladstone has met the demand for giving an appeal on the question of the clôture to a two-thirds majority is not calculated to abate the bitterness of party feeling. Mr. Gibson's speech on Tuesday brought together forcibly and compactly most of the arguments against clôture by a bare majority with which our readers have been familiar for many months. There is no sign in the Prime Minister's eloquent and most ingenious presentation of the Ministerial case of a serious attempt to grapple with those arguments. On Tuesday, as on former occasions, the cardinal question was shrouded in a gorgeous cloud of rhetoric. Mr. Gladstone relied for his central effects upon the ideal, which he touched with a masterly hand, of the dignity and impartiality of the Speaker, contending that no other guarantees for free speech and full discussion could be needed than that supplied by the character of the eminent person in the Chair. This appeal to a fallacy of the imagination, projecting our notions of the past and the present into the future, evades the important fact that the power of the clôture will be far more frequently exercised by the Chairman of Committees than by the Speaker. But the truth is that Mr. Gladstone's appeal to personal character as dispensing with any formal guarantees is one which would be admitted in no other department of Government. We do not place implicit confidence even in the Sovereign, the Ministers of the Crown, or the Houses of Parliament themselves. It was the complaint of the Stuart Kings that their subjects would not trust them; but it is now well understood that it involves no disrespect to King, President, or Minister to insist on the observance of checks. The strength of a chain is measured by that of the weakest link of it. It is necessary to provide against the possibility, and still more against the suspicion, of partisanship in the Chair. In foreign countries, the example of which Mr. Gladstone was the first to cite—though we are glad to see he has now abandoned this argument, in which some startling inaccuracies were pointed out by Mr. Gibson—partisan Presidents and Speakers are too well known, and are highly appreciated by their party friends. Mr. Gladstone asserts that no Speaker could unfairly close debate in reliance on the vote of a bare majority; and, furthermore, that if any Speaker dared to do so he would be driven from his high place. These assertions are in the nature of prophecy, and are, therefore, out of the region of reasoning. All we know is that, in other countries, where the clôture by a bare majority is the rule, what Mr. Gladstone declares to be beyond imagination or possibility is among the ordinary incidents of public life.—*Times.*

M. CLEMENCEAU AND M. GAMBETTA.

M. Clémenceau must have been reminded by his reception at Montmartre of M. Gambetta's earlier experiences in Belleville. Like the man whom he has supplanted in the affections of the Paris Radicals, he has had notice to quit. He is now visibly at the top of that inclined plane down which M. Gambetta has travelled so rapidly. He is as yet more fortunate than M. Gambetta, in that the party which finds M. Clémenceau too conservative for its tastes is still in want of a chief. If there had been no one politician more conspicuous than another among the deputies of the Extreme Left, their breach with M. Gambetta might have taken somewhat more time to bring about. M. Clémenceau's superiority alike in oratory and in strategy from the first marked him out as a leader. There was never any doubt as to who should fill M. Gambetta's place, but only as to the moment when M. Gambetta's place should be declared empty. No such predestined successor to M. Clémenceau has yet been revealed; and so long as no man appears to give voice to the discontent which the most extreme section of the Extreme Left is beginning to feel in him he may hold his own against Radical opposition. But a demand of this sort seldom goes long unsupplied; and now that Sunday's meeting has shown unmistakeably that M. Clémenceau has lost the confidence of a large minority among his constituents—and that, too, a minority superior "in strength of muscles and sinews"—we may look with confidence to the appearance of a new comet in the Radical sky. M. Clémenceau's "Opportunist" references to the Montceau outrages are not likely to be popular with the more determined electors in Montmartre. Even if M. Clémenceau had confined himself to excuses, and left the blame out, a portion of his hearers would have quarrelled with him for not turning implied condonation into positive praise. Even in Lyons it seems that the Republican papers of all shades are more angry with the Government for protecting the person of the Archbishop than for not acting vigorously enough to make such personal protection unnecessary. The fact that he is an archbishop ought, they argue, to outweigh the fact that he is exposed to special danger. The received theory indeed with these journals is that the recent outrages are either directly or indirectly the work of the Clericals. According to some, it is a Clerical plot which has been artfully arranged to seem the handiwork of the Socialists. According to others, it is the work of the Socialists, provoked beyond endurance by the irritating spectacle of Government countenanace extended to a false and degrading creed. Explanations of this sort show plainly enough that those who offer them feel that as yet the readers for whom they write cannot forget that the outrages were directed against the common enemy. They do not like to see dynamite used even against a church or a crucifix, because dynamite has an inconvenient capacity of being used against forms of property which they themselves hold dear. But still it was against churches and crucifixes that it was employed; and this redeeming circumstance must not be altogether left out of sight when sitting in judgment on the authors of the outrages. With these views prevailing in a great part of the Left, and with the Right and the Centre—if there can still be said to be a Centre in France—sitting by in pleased appreciation of the inability of the Republic to discharge the first duty of every Government, M. Duclerc and his colleagues have an unsatisfactory prospect in front of them.—*St. James's Gazette.*

MR. HERBERT SPENCER ON AMERICA.

Mr. Herbert Spencer has not been able to escape the common fate of distinguished travellers. He had not been two months in America when he was subject to a raking cross-examination on the deepest political and social problems by the inevitable interviewer. The interviewer is a provoking person, but he is a little too much abused nowadays. Whether his achievements are a public benefit or a public nuisance depends very much upon the common sense of the party attacked. In the present instance interviewing has produced pretty interesting results. Mr. Spencer "objects to the system," but, knowing that it is no use for any man, however eminent, to contend with destiny, he submitted with a good grace, and, not, being overweighted with a sense of the solemnity of the occasion, said a number of suggestive things, though we have a stubborn suspicion of his, and all other, generalisations as to the bad quality of public life in America. A philosopher is sure to expect too much, to think that all is wrong because it is not all ideal. Mr. Spencer is the last person in the world to have the prevalent delusion that any man who happens to be distinguished for anything is competent to play Sir Oracle on everything, and to pronounce a valuable opinion on any subject under the sun. What he said was all the better for being so unpretentious. He was immensely struck by the material greatness of America. It exceeded his highest expectations, but he declined to indulge in sweeping generalisations on the strength of it. "I suppose you recognise in these results," said the examiner, "the benefit of free institutions?" It was a most characteristic question, but Mr. Spencer would not jump at the platitude. The bounty of nature, the benefit of the past experience of mankind, the determination, industry, and inventive genius of the American character, seemed to him to have even more to do with this imposing material civilization than free institutions themselves. Mr. Spencer, indeed, has his doubts about this boasted American freedom. May it not be slipping away unobserved? This is rather startling, but Mr. Spencer goes on to justify it by pointing to the condition of American public life. "The sovereign people is fast becoming a puppet which moves and speaks as wirepullers determine." A despotism is no less a despotism because its head is a party leader with so many thousand votes at his command, given at his bidding and irrespective of principle, than if he were a feudal ruler commanding so many thousand retainers and subject to no legal and constitutional restraints. And the existing tyranny of party organization and political jobbers will not be broken down merely by the spread of education. Mr. Spencer entirely refuses to see the cure of all political and social evils in the growth of intellectual culture. It is not owing to absence of education that American politics have fallen inio the hands of jobbers. It is not want of education but a certain want of character, an indifference to small trespasses upon right, a reluctance to resent petty but ever-increasing encroachments upon individual freedom, which leads to the decay of free institutions. "The price of liberty is eternal vigilance," and "free institutions can be properly worked only by men each of whom is jealous of his own rights, and also sympathetically jealous of the rights of others; who will neither himself aggress on his neighbours in small things or great, nor tolerate aggression on them by others." With this general indifference in the body of citizens, it becomes easy for those who make the management of public affairs a business, to be carried on like any other business, for profit, to encroach more and more upon individual rights.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

THE LYONS WEAVERS.

More complete information from our Special Correspondent at Lyons confirms the opinion we have already advanced that at the bottom of the discontent among the working classes lies poverty. While the maximum wages of a silk-weaver do not reach a pound a week, all the prime necessaries of life are much dearer in Lyons than in the English manufacturing towns, which have tided over many bitter bad times, thanks to cheap fuel and the cheap bread, cheese, and bacon due to Free Trade:—

The evil effect of heavy imposts is severely felt just now in France, for the excise duty on dynamite is so heavy that the surreptitious manufacture of it is very profitable and largely carried on, a fact which places this tremendous weapon quite within the hands of the anarchists, while the Protective tariff keeps up the price of food and fuel. As there is in France no legal provision for the destitute, the effect of low wages, insufficient employment, and the dearness of the necessaries of life is that evil counsellor, despair. As not only the weavers, but the dyers and labourers in chemical works are in sore straits, it is proposed to call a public meeting at Croix Rouge on Saturday night to devise means for grappling with the industrial difficulty. It will be proposed to form a permanent Labour Defence Committee, whose duty it will be to demand the organization of public workshops and the distribution of relief at the Mairies. The institution of public workshops is not a new idea, and is under the disadvantage of having failed signally when it was tried. M. Louis Blanc has over and over again had this failure laid at his door, whereas, in fact, the system tried was not that proposed by him. It might be thought that a town of the wealth and magnitude of Lyons should hardly require in times of distress the succour of the nation. When evil times came on Manchester a few years ago, there was not only no hint of appeal to the State, but when London held out a helping hand to the suffering city, Manchester gratefully but firmly refused the proffered aid, thinking that she could "fend for herself."—*Daily News.*

FRANCE AND CHINA.

Sir Charles Dilke, when questioned by Mr. Fitzpatrick as to the apprehended difficulties between France and China, had, as usual, "no information." A small French force had, he said, entered Anam some months ago; but there was no news of Chinese troops having done the same thing:—

The French force was not very large, certainly; but its proceedings in storming Hanoi, and since then annexing Tong-king, were surely sufficiently large to have gained for it a little more appreciative mention. As to the Chinese movements in Anam, we have no more certain information than a Central News telegram from St. Petersburg. But nothing is more certain than that the Chinese will resent French enterprise in that direction. China has always exercised a feudal suzerainty over Anam, and through Anam over Tong-king. The sudden absorption of this province by the French is more than the Tsung-li Yamen will meekly submit to. The conversion of the Song-ka, or Fleuve Range, into a French waterway, is sure to be resisted. Mr. Colquhoun, in his recent journey across China, passed along the Yunnan-Tong-king frontier, and both there and in the adjacent province of Kwang-si found very considerable irritation prevailing against the French operations. The Chinese are not very expeditious in their military movements; but the Tong-king matter is one in which they are not likely to confine themselves to remonstrances. In Mr. Colquhoun's lecture at Simla he directed particular attention to this straining of relations between China and France, and predicted difficulties. The question is one of no little importance to us; for if the French secure the Song-ka River, they will tap Yunnan and lose for us all the wealthy trade to gain which has been the object of the journeys of such gallant explorers as Messrs. Cooper and Margary, Captain Gill (unhappily now all dead), and Messrs. Colborne Baber and Colquhoun. Mr. Colquhoun lectures before the Royal Geographical Society on the 13th of next month, and not the least valuable portion of his remarks will be those directed to this Tong-king question.—*St. Games's Gazette.*

THE EGYPTIAN TRIALS.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Tuesday:—

M. de Lesseps has telegraphed that he transmits his declaration by post, and confirms the statements already transmitted to the President of the Commission. M. de Lesseps's evidence is generally considered as unfavourable to Arabi, as proving conclusively that whenever he exerted himself to prevent outrage he was able to do so. Further evidence will be adduced in the same sense—that he saved Mr. De Chair's life against the wish of Toulba, and that he stopped the Alexandria massacre by a telegraphic order to the troops—and the prosecution urge that it is impossible to relieve from responsibility a man who was able to exercise such power, and who so seldom used it to repress outrage; that it is impossible to believe that the man who held this power could not have stopped massacres, incendiarism, and pillage had he wished to.

Ismail Eyoub, in introducing the counsel to the members of the Commission, welcomed their appearance as a guarantee for the fairness of the inquiry, which would necessarily be conducted under the eyes of Europe. He considered the institution of such a regular trial not one of the least benefits conferred by England on Egypt, and it constituted an important epoch in Egypt's judicial history. He assured the counsel that the sole object of the Commission was to ascertain the truth.

The prosecution began to-day to furnish counsel with copies of evidence. The prisoners complain bitterly of the continual attacks made on them by the Turkish Press, particularly *El Jawaib*, which six months ago encouraged their plans and extolled them as defenders of Islam. It is said that Arabi is preparing an answer to the article which denounced him as a rebel and demanded his execution.

The correspondent of the *Standard* at Cairo telegraphed on Tuesday evening:—

Great efforts have been made by the Egyptian authorities since the arrival upon the scene of the English counsel to obtain fresh evidence implicating the accused with the massacres of Alexandria. Reports are current to the effect that they have succeeded in so doing, but I believe that there is no foundation whatever for these statements. It has transpired, indeed, that much of the evidence already brought forward is entirely irrelevant to the case, and that a portion of the evidence consists merely of letters addressed to the Commission from different parts of the country, without signature, or any evidence whatever of the *bonâ fides* of the writers. Messrs. Broadley and Napier were to-day introduced to the members of the Commission of Inquiry by the President, who, after the usual compliments, expressed a hope that they would carry away with them a favourable impression of the equity and impartiality of Egyptian Judges.

The Government have at present under their consideration various schemes for the pacification of the Soudan. Among them is one prepared by Ismail Pacha Eyoub, now President of the Commission of Inquiry. He was formerly Governor of Khartoum, and bears a good reputation for his conduct there. This scheme, however, in common with others submitted, is drawn up with a total disregard of the practical side of the question, and has been discarded owing to the large expense which would be required to carry out his plans. It is now decided to equip with the utmost speed a small force, which will be immediately forwarded in the hope of saving Khartoum. Should they arrive in time they will, if possible, hold the place until further forces can be organised and sent up. It is considered to be of the utmost importance to check the advance of the False Prophet until the complete reorganisation of the Army allows of an offensive movement being undertaken against the invader.

ANOTHER GALE.

DISASTROUS FLOODS.

A gale blew in Somerset on Wednesday, and the floods between Athelney and Longport were so full of waves that trains could not cross them, the line remaining deep under water. All traffic was suspended. A message on Wednesday afternoon states nine houses have been washed away by the floods near Athelney and Burroughbridge, Somerset. Others are in danger. The wind and rain continued, and a storm of sleet was raging in the district.

A heavy gale from the south-west raged over the Cornish coast on Tuesday night. The steamship *Dalariada*, of Glasgow, went ashore on the western spits, Hayle Bar, on Tuesday night, but was got off with slight damage.

A sad fatality occurred at Cowes on Wednesday. A gentleman named Scadding, 77 years of age, was blown into the water from the road, and was drowned before assistance could reach him. During the gale at Plymouth on Wednesday a boy named Gibbs was blown over Lambhay Point into the Cattewater. The lad's grandfather, who had been holding him by the hand, jumped after him, and caught hold of his clothing, but the water was so rough that he was obliged to relinquish it. The old man was rescued in a very exhausted condition after great difficulty, but the body of the boy has not yet been recovered.

THE COMMITTEE ON MR. GRAY'S CASE.—The Select Committee appointed by the House of Commons with regard to the question of privilege arising out of the recent imprisonment of Mr. E. D. Gray, M.P., met on Tuesday afternoon in the Premier's private room in the House of Commons, the Attorney-General presiding. Mr. Gladstone was not present at the commencement of the proceedings. One of the first questions raised was whether the press should be admitted to the deliberations of the Committee. Several of the Irish members urged that reporters should be present, as in some previous cases of privilege: but upon a division it was decided by a majority that the proceedings should be conducted in private. Mr. Gray was examined as a witness.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE PROCEDURE RESOLUTIONS.

The Ajourned Debate on the Procedure Resolutions was resumed, and after a verbal amendment by Mr. Warton had been made in the First Resolution,

Mr. GIBSON moved his amendment, which provides that in no case shall the clôture be enforced unless it be supported by two-thirds of those present. In the first place, he remarked that this was the greatest change ever proposed in the *status* of the Opposition, and that it was the first proposal ever formally made to deprive it of its traditional and constitutional functions. He protested also that the Opposition admitted the necessity of reform, and were ready to co-operate in any scheme which did not leave a rankling sense of injustice. Replying to Mr. Gladstone's speech in introducing the subject in February last, he maintained that his references to the Colonial precedents and the practice of European Legislatures were entirely erroneous, and afforded no argument for this innovation, and quoted against it former declarations of Mr. Gladstone himself and of other Ministers. Canvassing the particular form in which the clôture was proposed, he showed that while one man in a thin House could prevent a debate being stopped, the same single individual in a full House could actually stop the debate, and he urged, moreover, that while obstruction was acknowledged to proceed only from a small section, small majorities would be effectually protected by the Rule, while large majorities might be gagged with the greatest ease. While feeling perfectly safe in the hands of the existing authorities, he augured from the manner in which the party opposite had presented the Resolution that hereafter they would elect Speaker and Chairman for the express purpose of carrying out despotic power in a partisan spirit. As to the "evident sense" that would be signified either by the obstreperous clamour of the Ministerial side, or by the insidious whispers of the whips. If the "evident sense" meant the general sense, and not merely of one party, why not express that in the Resolution?—for, as it ran at present, the "evident sense" and the "bare majority" were contradictions in turns. He put it to the Ministerial party—how many of them would have voted for the bare majority if proposed by the Conservatives, and he called on the Prime Minister to explain why he had made the offer of a compromise in May last, and why he had withdrawn it. Finally, he denounced the proposal as intended to crush the Opposition, as certain to degrade the character and authority of the Chair, and to reduce the House itself into the position of a kind of superior department of the Government of the day.

MR GLADSTONE pointed out that the question was not the clôture which had already been affirmed, but whether it should be applied by an artificial majority. As to colonial experience, he admitted that it did not afford an argument for the proposal; but the Government, he said, did not ask for this power because it was a good thing *per se*, but because they thought it was better than to allow the House to sink into a condition of impotence. As to the offer of May last, he admitted that the policy of it was doubtful; but the Government then estimated that if they could get rid of procedure they would have six weeks left for the general business of the country, and they were ready to pay that heavy price for the advantage. As to the fears of the Opposition, he repeated his profound conviction that the Speaker could not and would not, and that he would not dare to deviate from his impartiality, and that any Minister or party who attempted to abuse the Rule would be speedily visited with absolute ruin. For small minorities the Rule provided ample securities, and to gag a large majority was absolutely impossible. Within a month, he maintained, an Opposition, smarting under a sense of injustice and oppression, would have no difficulty in unseating the Speaker and bringing the business of the House to a standstill. He objected to the two-thirds majority because it was unjust to small minorities, inasmuch as the numerical safeguards now contained in the Resolution could not be worked with it and must speedily be dropped out. It was unjust also to the majority, as it handed over their rights to the minority, and paralyzed their power to discharge the duties which they had undertaken towards the country. Finally, he said that the Government, having fully considered the point, had come to the conclusion that it would be an excess of pressure and a trespass on the jurisdiction of the House to make this a question of confidence. Still they did not conceal their opinion that a two-thirds majority closure would not only be an inefficient system, but would be a deterioration of the present state of things, and worse than no clôture at all.

Mr. ECROYD, who supported the amendment, dwelt on the deterioration in the House and the injustice which might be inflicted by impatience; while Mr. Buxton, on the other side, ridiculed the fears of the Opposition, and pointed out all the safeguards against injustice or oppression.

Mr. GREGORY feared that the proposed remedy went beyond the necessity, and protested his ignorance of any occasion when it had been found difficult to bring a debate to a close by amicable arrangement.

Mr. SALT argued that the bare majority was not needed to put down the illegitimate obstruction with which alone the country had been given to understand the House was dealing, and the result of the rule, as now drawn, would prevent members of the minorities doing their duty.

MR. A. MORLEY thought the dangers and inconveniences of the present state of things surpassed the worst which had been prophesied of the *clôture*; and Mr. Buchanan also opposed the amendment.

MR. WHITLEY held that the "evident sense" of the House logically led to a two-thirds majority. Colonel Alexander, on the same side, showed that the Prime Minister had entirely misrepresented the practice of Colonial Legislatures, and earnestly appealed to the independent Liberals to shake off the pressure of the caucus; while Mr. Alderman Fowler held it to be settled beyond dispute by Mr. Gladstone's speech that the object was to gag the Conservative party, which, he maintained, had never been guilty of obstruction.

MR. HENEAGE repeated Mr. Gladstone's argument that the amendment would place the power which ought to belong to the majority in the hands of the minority, and Mr. Davey, who also took the same objection, held that the *onus* of proof lay on those who proposed to depart from the constitutional practice of deciding all questions by a bare majority, and supported the resolution as it stood, because it would really promote freedom of discussion by stopping irrelevant speeches. Mr. Grantham supported the amendment, and Sir J. Lubbock argued in favour of the two-thirds majority that it would be more effective against the obstructives, while it would not have so drastic an effect on the regular Opposition. Irrelevance and obstruction generally, he pointed out, were dealt with in subsequent rules, and the members who would be stopped by this rule would be committing no Parliamentary offence at all. He warned the small minorities that the safeguards now contained in the rules would not last long, and though the rule might not be enforced very frequently at first, he foresaw that in time to come Ministries would be compelled by the pressure of opinion to use this instrument for passing measures in which their party was interested.

Mr. WHITBREAD protested against the introduction of the novel principle of numerical majorities and derided the fears of partial speakers and tyrannical Ministers.

Sir R. CROSS, who concluded the debate for the evening, argued from the speeches of the Prime Minister and Mr. Davey that the "cat was now out of the bag," and that the object was not to crush the little knot of Irish obstructives, but to silence the Conservative party, against which nothing in the nature of obstruction could be charged. Replying to Mr. Gladstone's speech, he asked how it was that if the two-thirds clôture was worse than none at all he had offered in May to accept it, instead of withdrawing the Rule altogether.

On the motion of Mr. O'DONNELL, the debate was adjoured, and the House rose at 10 minutes past 12 o'clock.

TROOPS FROM EGYPT.

The *Bolivar* transport arrived at Portsmouth on Tuesday morning with the Royal Marine Artillery. She has brough home 12 officers and 297 non-commissioned officers and men, or a total of 309 of all ranks. The officers are Colonel Tuson, Majors Ogle, Everett, and Donald, Captain and Adjutant Noble, Captains Wheeler, Tucker, Rawstone, and Burrows, and Lieutenants Grant, Orford, and Marshall, Staff Surgeon Mahon, R.N., and Surgeon Ellis. There was also a small detachment of the Army Service Corps on board. As the *Bolivar* came into the harbour the crews manned the yards and cheered with great heartiness. On arriving alongside the sheer jetty the *Bolivar* was inspected by Admiral Superintendent J. D. M'Crea, and subsequently by Admiral Ryder and Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar. During the morning Col. Mawbey, the commandant at Eastney, went on board, and was loudly cheered by the men. At eleven the Royal Marine Artillery commenced to disembark, and headed by their own band, they marched for the main gate, the reception along the line of route being enthusiastic. The decorations at the barracks were very profuse. On arriving at Eastney, the troops having formed three sides of a square, Major-General Adair, C.B., who, accompanied by his son, Captain and Adjutant Adair, R.M.L.I., and Colonel Meade, R.M.L.I., had gone before the battalion to await them on the parade ground, said: Officers, non-commissioned officers, gunners, and buglers of the Royal Marine Artillery—I am glad to be here to-day to welcome you on your return home. A few months ago most of you, nearly all of you, marched out of barracks with great hopes and high expectations as to what would take place, and your hopes and expectations have been realised. Colonel Tuson, wherever a shot has been fired, from Aug. 17 to Sept. 12, you were there. It is not for us to sound the praises of those who belong to us, but I do say that everybody in the Royal Marine Artillery, under the able command of Colonel Tuson, has thoroughly maintained the high name of the corps. (Cheers.) You have taken an active part in every engagement, and the men of the Royal Marine Artillery have always done their duty faithfully to their Queen and their country, thus maintaining the high character of the corps they belong to, and not only have you merited but won the admiration of everybody. War must bring with it hardships and privations, and these you cheerfully met and nobly endured, and they appear to have only stimulated you to further victory. History must again record the fact, that whether by sea or land, whether as artillery or infantry, the Royal Marines are equal to any occasion. (Cheers.) I will not individualise what was done at Alexandria, Ramleh, Kassassin, Mahuta, or at Tel-el-Kebir; but I must say the noble way in which you worked the guns of the Royal Horse Artillery, when they were handed over to you, and worked them, too, under a galling fire, contributed to the success of the day; and, if I am right, on that very 24th of August, Gunner Hamilton, by the admirable way in which he worked his gun, dismounted one or two of the enemy's guns. On the same day, Colour-sergeant White, when the enemy was advancing on the banks at Kassassin, twice, under a galling fire, advanced to the top of a bank, and on several occasions killed the horses of the advancing battery of the enemy, and thereby prevented their advance any further. Everyone did their duty nobly and splendidly. (Cheers.) I am only too glad to hear from your commanding officer that your conduct since going into camp till the action at Tel-el-Kebir, and then till coming home, was as exemplary as it was on the battlefield. I am afraid we miss out of the ranks of those who marched out of the barracks a great number of brave comrades who are not permitted to receive this grand ovation to-day. For all that, I am sure none of you, or of us, will forget the noble way they met their death. Honour each of them as they rest for all time. (Cheers.) Honour the brave who are departed while there are so many bright faces awaiting you. Dinner was afterwards served in the drill-shed, upwards of 1,000 of the corps, including the officers and men from Egypt, dining together, under the presidency of Colonel-Commandant Mawbey.

A meeting was held at the Westminster Palace Hotel, on Tuesday afternoon, in support of the proposal to entertain the Guards on their return from Egypt. Lord Algernon Percy, M.P., presided, and among those present were Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., Sir H. Verney, M.P., General Boileau, Surgeon-Major Christie, Mr. W. Bonwick, etc. The Chairman said it required very few words on his part to recommend this movement to the support of that meeting and the public. A general desire existed in Westminster that a reception should be given to the Foot Guards upon their return from Egypt similar to that given to the Household Cavalry in London and to other regiments in other parts of the country. (Hear.) It might be said that the Guards had not been engaged in such brilliant achievements as the Household Cavalry, but a soldier could not do more than cheerfully perform the duty allotted to him. (Hear, hear.) This the Guards had done. (Hear, hear.) They had undergone some very fatiguing and toilsome work, and at Tel-el-Kebir had, owing to the Egyptians firing so high, been even more exposed to the fire of the enemy than the first line. He was sure they all felt that the Guards were worthy of the welcome that they desired to give them. (Hear, hear.) They had proved themselves worthy successors of the men who fought at Waterloo, Alma, and Inkerman—(hear, hear)—and they had most cheerfully and fully performed the duties laid upon them by their Queen and country. (Hear, hear.) Negotiations had been entered into with the manager of the Aquarium, which could be placed entirely at their disposal for the night of the dinner It was suggested that the banquet should take place at the Aquarium, in the body of the hall, and that admission to the galleries should be by ticket, to be obtained at a certain price. It would be well if they could set apart a portion of the galleries for the wives of the non-commissioned officers and men, for he knew that having their wives present would much increase the pleasure of the men. (Hear, hear.) He moved that a banquet be given in the city of Westminster to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of her Majesty's Foot Guards upon their return from Egypt, provided that sufficient funds were subscribed.

Surgeon-Major Christie seconded this resolution, which was adopted. On the motion of Mr. Robert Mann, seconded by General Boileau, an executive committee was appointed. Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., who had just arrived, moved that Colonel Prendergast Walsh be appointed hon. sec., and said there could be no doubt that Westminster and the whole of London would respond heartily to this appeal to give the Foot Guards a cordial welcome. The Guards were at home in Westminster, and Westminster was proud of them. (Hear, hear.) Colonel Walsh was appointed hon. sec., and Mr. Walter Bonwick, of the Imperial Bank, hon. treasurer. Captain Hobson, manager of the Aquarium, said the building would accommodate 1,700 men at dinner on the ground floor. In answer to a question, the chairman said the ordinary charge for admission to the gallery would be raised, and the receipts from this source would go to the Royal Aquarium Company. A motion accepting Captain Hobson's offer of the gratuitous use of the ground floor was accepted, and thanks voted.

THE BURNING OF A PULLMAN CAR.

EXTRAORDINARY EVIDENCE.

The inquest on Dr. John Arthur, of Aberdeen, who was burnt to death on Sunday while asleep in a Pullman car, was opened on Tuesday morning before Mr. Malcolm, coroner, at the Leeds Town Hall. Colonel Yolland was present on behalf of the Board of Trade. The Midland Railway Company, the Pullman Car Company, and the relatives of the deceased, were all represented by solicitors. After the jury had been sworn, they went to view the wrecked car and the body of the deceased. The first witness called was Frank Carlisle, who said he had been a driver for eight years. He commenced to drive the train, which had the Westinghouse brake, at Normanton, where a fresh engine was put on. The officials ought to have examined the train at Normanton. They left Normanton at 1.57. He was approaching the Louth Junction distant signal when he looked round on the six-foot side of the engine, attracted by a continuous noise. He saw a reflection of the engine-light on the top of the Pullman car. He heard the alarm-bell ring shortly after looking round, and told the stoker to open the sand valve. He looked about in the meanwhile, and ultimately came to a standstill. He got off the engine and went back, and was told that the car was on fire. He received a signal to draw ahead. He stopped again, and then went to the car with some buckets of water. He then received a signal from the guard to go on again. They then took the train to a water crane, leaving the carriages behind the burning car where they were. They tried to get the crane to work, but it did not answer the purpose they expected. The crane was too low to go over the carriage top. Some men from Nicholson's chemical works then came up with buckets of water. He asked the conductor if all the passengers were out, and he replied that he was not certain—some had made their escape one way and some another, and he could not tell. He did not see any attempt to enter the car. The car was then put into a siding, and the rest of the train was taken on to Skipton.—Cross-examined, the witness said the reason why he did not stop immediately the bell rang was that his orders were that if the bell rang he was to look out for something of a serious nature.—A Juryman: There might have been a murder going on in a carriage, and that would have been of a serious nature, and yet you could not have seen it?—The Coroner: He acted on his instructions, gentlemen, you must not blame him. The rules are distinct enough.—By Colonel Yolland: The brake apparatus was in proper working order.

Joseph Coates a fireman in the service of the Midland Railway Company, said he was on duty with Carlisle on Saturday night. At Rothwell Haigh, he looked out, and saw nothing unusual. He was firing when he heard his mate give the back signal for Hunslet Junction. The signal was against them. Shortly after the alarm whistle went. He could not give any idea of the time that elapsed before they pulled up. They were near the signal when they came to a stand. On hearing the alarm signal he looked back and saw nothing unusual. His mate asked him if he saw anything, and he came to his side. Witness replied, "I think there is something wrong." He got upon the tender footplate box, and then saw the reflection of the engine fire on the top of the car. The danger signal continued to sound, and the driver put the brake on, and he opened the sand valve. The driver also answered the alarm signal. As soon as he dared he jumped off the engine, and ran back. When he saw that the car was on fire he shouted for assistance. He saw a flame coming out of the window about the middle of the car at the right hand side. They had then got on to the Hunslet siding.—Mr. Clements: Did you slacken speed on seeing the signal against you?—No, it was taken off as soon as we whistled.

James Lines, the guard, said he came up from St. Pancras with the North traip. At St. Pancras he noticed the deceased having his luggage labelled for Edinburgh. The name on the luggage was Dr. Arthur. He saw the deceased in a first-class bogey carriage. He remarked to him that tickets were a trouble to night passengers, and that if he (deceased) would give him it he should not be troubled with it any more. The deceased held out a sixpence, which witness pushed away, and said "I don't want that—I want your ticket." He then told the ticket collector that he could not receive Dr. Arthur's ticket, and that he had better go for it himself. The gentleman appeared sleepy or gloomy. At Leicester he saw the gentleman again, and again at Bedford. He could not say whether he was in a smoking carriage. At Leicester he changed his luggage into the Pullman car. There was only part of it—a gun case and other small things. He remarked to the conductor, "Be careful about that gentleman. See his ticket, because I could not find it at St. Pancras." They next stopped at Trent and then at Sheffield, and lastly at Normanton; but witness did not see deceased at any of those stations.—Cross-examined by Mr. Middleton: Dr. Arthur seemed rather inclined to give his ticket up, but seemed sleepy or stupefied.—By Colonel Yolland: He did not see the deceased get into the car, and didn't know whether he got in by himself or was assisted in.

Mr. McGill, surgeon, Leeds, said he examined the body lying at the mortuary, and had come to the conclusion that it could not be less than 6ft. 1¼in. in height. It was that of a well-nourished young man. The witness described the appearance of the body, which was charred over nearly the whole surface, and said there was no trace of any cigar having been in the mouth of deceased.

The Coroner—Can you say whether death resulted from suffocation or otherwise?—Witness: The condition of the heart points to some extent to suffocation, but I should think that death was caused by general burning.

Alexander Thompson Arthur, surgeon, of Ben Rhydding, brother the deceased, said his brother was of the medical profession, and had resided for some years in Ceylon. His return home had been expected, and a telegram was sent by him from London on Saturday, to say he would reach Aberdeen next day. It was more than a year since he had seen deceased. His brother was over six feet three inches high, and he had no reason to doubt that the body at the mortuary was his.

Robert Donaldson, conductor of the car, said he had two berths occupied in his car on the train leaving St. Pancras on Saturday night by Messrs. Dove and Mann. At Leicester a tall gentleman joined the car, having a hat-case, a gun-case, and other luggage. The label on the hat-case was "Dr. Arthur, passenger to Columba." He wished witness good evening, and asked for a berth. Witness gave him one in line with the other two occupied. They were not on the stove side, but on the opposite side. Witness asked him for the 8s. extra required for the car ticket, and the deceased put his hand in his pocket but pulled no money out. He did not appear to have any, and he said he would pay witness in the morning. He asked if witness could give him anything to drink, at which witness laughed, and replied "I have only the soda, if you have the brandy." Deceased then asked for a soda glass and a bottle of soda, which witness got him. Taking out of his pocket a little bottle, he laughed

Galignani's Messenger.

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NOTICE.

A Four-page Supplement is published with this day's number of the MESSENGER, *and will be delivered gratis with each copy of the paper. It contains our American news and an interesting variety of literary extracts.*

Great Britain.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 1—2, 1882.

THE CONSERVATIVES AND THE "CLOTURE."

With reference to Mr. Gladstone's opposition to Mr. Gibson's amendment in favour of the clôture being declared by a two third's majority, the *Standard* says:—"It must not be forgotten that what Mr. Gladstone now describes as a "bad principle" he was perfectly willing to accept six months ago. Circumstances, however, have changed. Ministers have gathered strength with their laurels in Egypt, and the troublesome Irish members have been silenced. They will, it is understood, support the Government against Mr. Gibson; and their support will more than counterbalance the defection of those Liberals who still believe in liberty, and who refuse to be dictated to by the organisers of the Caucus. But when the Amendment proposed by Mr. Gibson is disposed of, the question will not by any means be settled. Indeed, it may turn out that it is further from settlement than ever. If there be any courage in the Opposition, that will assuredly be the result. The Prime Minister now says that sooner than admit of the clôture by a two-thirds majority, he would prefer no clôture at all. The Opposition and the Moderate Liberals may fairly retort that, for their part, they would rather have no clôture at all than clôture by bare majority. Hitherto, no alternative scheme has been proposed or discussed, though alternative schemes abound. There seems, however, to be nothing for it but to fight the battle to the end without flinching. The Prime Minister has nailed his colours to the mast. Let others do the same. The Opposition have no slight advantages on their side. Numerically they are inferior to their adversaries; but they are a compact, homogeneous body; they know their own minds, and they are fighting in a cause which in the long run will always be held dear by Englishmen—liberty of speech. The Prime Minister, on the other hand, commands a composite, heterogeneous army, part of which urges him in one direction, while the other party drives him in another. The Government cannot venture to defy their Radical followers, who are too powerful to be neglected, and too vindictive to be defied. They are the section of the Liberal Perty who would break up the Government rather than not have their own way. In numbers inferior to their moderate allies, they are superior to them in resolution and recklessness; hence not a few of the supporters of the Government, who look upon the clôture with a distrust that is inspired by all their traditions, may lack the courage to give expression to their feelings. But some Liberals there are who will remain staunch to their principles, despite all threats, and notwithstanding all contingencies. Under such circumstances the Opposition are bound to fight the question of the Clôture with dogged tenacity, to contest the ground inch by inch, and not to yield so long as Parliamentary resistance is possible within the limit of existing Rules. It is not a question of Obstruction at all. It is a question whether freedom of debate shall be extinguished by a Minister at the head of a tyrannical majority, without the most determined efforts being made for its preservation. When Minister after Minister openly admits that the Clôture is wanted not to put down Obstruction, but to pass a Party programme for Party purposes, the minority are morally bound to neglect no means which will help to defeat such an abuse of Parliamentary power.

LORD DUFFERIN'S MISSION.

Some sensation seems to have been caused at the Porte by the news that Lord Dufferin is about to proceed to Egypt, and a consultation lasting through the night has, it is said, been held on the subject at the Palace. It is natural that regret should be felt at losing even temporarily the society of so genial an Ambassador, and perhaps some apprehension is not less natural at the transfer of his great abilities to affairs in which procrastination suits Turkish policy better than it does ours. The Porte must consider, however, that it has not recently made Constantinople a particularly interesting post for a man of Lord Dufferin's varied powers. Nothing is going on there of a character to occupy his energies. Possibly a dim consciousness of this circumstance has prompted the appointment of the three Reform Commissions. Turkish Commissions, however, especially of a reforming character, do not rush precipitately at conclusions. If Lord Dufferin feels any anxiety about the consequences of those now appointed, he has probably consoled himself with the reflection that he will have finished his work in Egypt in plenty of time to witness the beneficent changes resulting from their labours. Now that the Turco-Greek difficulty is set at rest, and even the Sheikh Obeidullah's demonstrations have shrunk into the modest compass of a demand for beasts of burden to remove his chattels, there are really few subjects of vivid interest to be discussed on the Bosphorus. The Turks have awakened rather late to the fact that the centre of political gravity has been shifted by recent events. Egypt is now far more interesting, not only to England, but to all Europe, than Turkey proper. There is no active hostility to the Porte, but there is a growing indifference which it is, perhaps, right in regarding as at least equally dangerous. For this it has only itself to thank. It is but a few months since Turkey was importuned to take action in Egypt, and her decision was awaited with mixed feelings in every European capital. She would not act, and we do not profess to regret her refusal; but from a Turkish point of view it was a mistake. The momentous crisis has been met, and the necessary action taken by England, with the result of leaving Turkey altogether out of the political current. She is not likely to find in Lord Dufferin's action in Egypt any opportunity of re-entering it. The reorganization of that country cannot be carried out in the Sultan's name, or based upon so unstable a foundation as Turkish firmans. On the contrary, it will rest upon arrangements to which firmans can at best be only decorative excrescences.—*Times.*

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

The Municipal Elections took place all over England on Wednesday, except in London. As yet the capital has no part in the great movement of local self-government which creates interest and excitement on the first of November in every municipal town in the Kingdom. The retirement of one-third of the Town Councillors every year and the selection of the Mayor for the ensuing year within nine days of the election to fill the vacant seats give an opportunity for a political struggle in boroughs where, at the moment, no more exciting local question is uppermost. It is difficult, however, to form any clear notion of the state of parties in the country from these contests. They take place in wards, and a town may be so divided as to give a constant Tory majority in the Town Council, although it returns Liberals to Parliament. Something like this is the case at Bristol; and Gravesend, which has a Liberal representative in Parliament, has a Town Council with eighteen Conservative and six Liberal members. The political result of the contests of any single year can only be estimated in relation to the previous constitution of the Councils. A Conservative reaction during Liberal ascendency will show itself in large Conservative gains on the first of November; and a Liberal wave will show itself in the Town Council elections in the same way during a Conservative period. In 1872 and 1873 the defeat of 1874 was believed to be in some degree foreshadowed in the municipal elections; and in 1879 there were Liberal gains, as there were in still larger degree in 1880 after the great Liberal victory. During the elections of Wednesday the Conservatives made some gallant attempts, with partial success here and there, in winning back some of the ground they had lost. On casting up the reports from various parts of the country there is a balance of gains in favour of the Conservatives. It is, however, very curiously made up. There have been Liberal gains in some thirty-one towns, and Conservative successes in thirty-seven towns. In the vast majority of the boroughs, however, the election has made no difference in the political constitution of the Town Council. In most there was no contest. The majority of the Town Councils are Liberal, and the political party which is thus in possession has only to defend its own. The attack is, as a rule, thrown on the Conservatives, and, except in a small minority of boroughs, they have not exhibited any considerable zeal in making it. The results of the contests in the sixty-eight towns in which there have been gains and losses may be summed up as slightly in favour of the Conservatives; but in the remaining hundred and fifty, or more, there is either no contest or no change in the political character of the Town Council. So far as these elections are any guide to political feeling, the country generally appears to be in a condition of political quiet and content. It is perhaps not very surprising, in the present state of the Conservative party, that in a large number of towns the local Conservatives are not in an enterprising mood. Their leaders do not lead, and the followers could not follow if they would. We believe that the feeling of the country is largely and predominantly in favour of even more thorough reforms in the procedure of the House of Commons than those which the Government proposes; and the opposition offered by the Conservatives in the House has only a faint support among large numbers of their own followers.—*Daily News.*

THE RUSSIAN ADVANCE IN ASIA.

The telegram recently received from Teheran, telling of Russian forces advancing towards Afghan territory has been somewhat mutilated in transmission. It states that a detachment of Russian cavalry with two guns has passed Old Sarrakhs, on the Murghab River (100 miles south of Merv), close to the Afghan frontier and near Herat, and that four battalions of infantry, four guns, and 2,000 cavalry are about to follow:—

These military details may very possibly be correct; for they agree partly with the report circulated some months ago that the Russians contemplated settling on this part of Afghan soil, and the troops would very likely pass Sarrakhs on their way to Panj-deh, which is the headquarters of the Sarik Turkomans. But neither New nor Old Sarrakhs, though both are near the Afghan frontier, is "near Herat;" and though it may be about one hundred miles from Merv, it does not lie south but south-west of it, while it is not situated on the Murghab but on the Heri-rud River. However, there can be little doubt that Sarrakhs is really meant, for the troops would naturally pass that fort on their way from the Akhal Tekke country, Russia's new Trans-Caspian province, to the country of the Soriks. The reply of the Government to-night to Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett's question on the subject will be awaited with interest. The Sariks are a tribe of some little importance, numbering about 50,000 souls, and they occupy a fairly fertile tract of country about the confluence of the Khushk and Murghab Rivers. It is most probable that they are given to marauding occasionally; for the districts to the eastward of them have suffered fearfully from incessant depredations, and it is not likely that all these are to be laid at the door of the more distant Tekkes. An occupation of the Sarik country will furnish the Russians with a position of strategic importance; for it will enable them to control the course of the Murghab, and so threaten the very means of existence of Merv, which is solely dependent on that river for its water supply. By this means Russia will have in her hands a most effectual instrument for ensuring the good behaviour of the Merv Turkomans without the necessity of a resort to arms. There is no doubt, however, that the Sariks occupy Afghan soil, and the prospect of wholesale violation—it may be annexation—of Afghan territory is not a light matter.—*St. James's Gazette.*

THE BRITISH ARMY.

The *Daily Telegraph* considers that one effect of the Egyptian campaign has been to bring the new model upon which the British Army is built more strongly into prominence. The incidents of that expedition, from the outset to the close, tested to a considerable extent the principles adopted eleven years ago, and on the whole the results have been satisfactory:—

The demand was sudden and it was large; there were batteries, battalions, and squadrons in a state of preparedness sufficiently advanced to meet, with the aid of the Reserve, the abrupt and peremptory call. The troops, sagaciously and boldly guided, accomplished everything required from them; and thus the wisdom of the changes effected in 1871 were vindicated by the experience of a brief yet trying campaign. After this practical example may we trust that the quarrel about long service and short service, old soldiers and young soldiers, will cease and determine, and that Parliament, as well as the responsible authorities, will concentrate their attentions upon the means required to make the best soldier and the most effective and available army? There is no royal road to the one or the other, although there are several methods which, if consistently followed, would produce both. The plan we have chosen as a people may not be the most suitable, but they have the great advantage of possessing public sanction; and the work before military administrators is to supply defects, and complete the institution. For it should ever be borne in mind that the maintenance of an army is a grave and arduous business which is never ended. All armies deteriorate unless special and constant care is taken to approach as nearly as may be towards the ideal standard. The forms adopted tend to crystallise and degenerate into routine, and against such decay the administrator is bound to strive with all his might. Defects grow by lapse of time until they eat into the spirit, and flaws are disclosed which, if not repaired, injure the whole structure. Moreover, it is absolutely needful to efficiency in the military business, as much as in any other, that the managers and directors should keep abreast of the hour, and neglect no plain improvement either in tactics, equipment, clothing, or armament. History proves that no model, however excellent, is good for all time, but that it constantly needs adaptation to novel requirements, and active intelligent supervision to keep it alive, so that the machine may be always in readiness to encounter the hard facts with which it may have to deal. Happily, since the Crimean campaign, and still more since the startling Franco-German war, we have been more on the alert, and less disinclined to maintain the guardian of the national safety in a state approximating towards a higher standard of efficiency for all purposes. The new system, which may be roughly described as one providing for an army capable of expansion, has now been put to the proof, and, so far as the principles involved are concerned, the experiment has shown that they are sound.

THE STATE OF EGYPT.

THE CAIRO TRIALS.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Wednesday:—

The case of Osman Fazi, accused of the Halimist intrigue, is considered to have nothing in common with the charges against Arabi. Consequently the defence declines proceeding with it at present. The first group will, therefore, include Kadri Bey, Abdelal's Colonel at Damietta. The evidence against the Sultan appears to increase. Not only are Arabi's papers considered by counsel sufficiently compromising, but Ahmed Rifaat, late Director of the Press Department and Secretary of the Council of Ministers, one of Arabi's most prominent adherents, handed to counsel to-day the Imperial firman delivered secretly to him by Dervish on the 9th of July last, giving him civil rank equivalent to brigadier-general. Ahmed Rifaat is a son of Ekani Pacha, the well-known accomplished linguist at Stamboul. He is composing an elaborate defence in French to submit to counsel. Yakoub Sami, Arabi's Under-Secretary, to whom with Mahmoud Fehmi, belongs all the credit of the actual military organisation of the rebellion, complains of ill-treatment by Janissaries on the same day as the others, and of being kept awake for some nights by guards knocking at his door. Sir Charles Wilson at once gave strict orders to put an end to any possible abuse. I mention these details, not because they are important, but to avoid any appearance of partiality. Every complaint made has been telegraphed, and the public can see what they amount to—gross insults and petty cruelties that all Englishmen will reprobate, which the authorities have at once remedied, and which are too likely to have occurred when all circumstances are considered—but not torture, such as was exercised on the friends of these culprits, the chief of whom, Ibrahim Aga, had to fly the country to avoid the same fate—a baseless charge of stealing from the Khedive having been brought against him by the soldiers, and the Khedive having assisted him to escape to save him. Arabi was to-day allowed a long interview with his son. He had leave to see his wife; but he declined to allow her to come to the prison.

The Khedive paid an unexpected visit to Lady Strangford's Hospital, established in Arabi's house. He spoke to the patients, and minutely inspected every detail: expressed a hope that it would be a permanent souvenir of the Anglo-Egyptian alliance, and accepted the joint patronage with the Duke of Connaught.

In Candia, at the instance of Toussoun Bey, Governor of Kavala, a village which, it is not perhaps generally known, appertains to Egypt, or rather to the family of Mehemet Ali, two importants arrests have been made—Suleiman Daoud, the admitted burner of Alexandria, and Moussa Akad, one of the instigators of the massacre. They are believed to have crossed the desert to Benghazi, and there to have taken ship to Candia. Their evidence is most important, and it is necessary that the utmost pressure should be applied to the Turkish Government to insist on their being sent here.

The Alexandria correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Wednesday night:—

The town is fast settling down, and commerce is resuming its normal condition at this generally the busiest season of the year. Cotton and cereals are coming in from the interior, and the port presents an animated aspect. The owners of the houses and stores which have been destroyed by fire are only delaying setting about the work of re-building until the International Commission for the settlement of claims has finally arranged the terms of compensation. It is proposed that a petition shall be presented to Lord Dufferin upon his arrival here, asking that he will obtain the issue of a Decree that all owners shall be compelled forthwith to remove the *débris* of the destroyed buildings, which is considered, from the variety of matter of all kinds which it contains, to be very injurious to public health.

SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.—A meeting of the council of the Smithfield Club was held at the Agricultural Hall on Wednesday to receive the certificates of entries, and to make arrangements for the show. Sir Thomas Brandreth Gibbs, the honorary secretary, presented the report, which was of a highly satisfactory character, the number of entries being quite upon a level with those of last year. The show is fixed to open on Monday, December 4, continuing the four following days. The prize list, in addition to the champion plate, cups, and gold and silver medals, will reach nearly £3,000 in money, and the show will be divided into eighty-six classes; of these thirty-five are devoted to cattle, thirty-five to sheep, and sixteen to pigs.

SERIOUS FIRE AT SHEFFIELD.—A destructive fire broke out at Sheffield on Wednesday night. It began in the timber-yard of Mr. John Walker, and, in consequence of the wind being high, spread rapidly. The contents of the yard were destroyed, the damage being estimated at £10,000. From the yard the flames spread across a street to the cutlery works of Thomas Renshaw and Son, which were almost burned out. Three cottages were also destroyed.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at 20 minutes past 12 o'clock.

THE CLÔTURE.

The adjourned debate on the clôture was resumed by—

Mr. O'DONNELL, who said that, notwithstanding the allurements held out in Mr. Gladstone's speech to small minorities, he intended to support Mr. Gibson's amendment. The Resolution as it stood was deficient in guarantees for freedom of debate, for no Speaker could say that a subject had been adequately discussed, and the operation of it must inevitably be to prevent private members being heard. It was directed, not against obstruction, but the legitimate and inconvenient opposition of the constitutional Opposition, and it was especially objectionable at a time when the Government were supposed to be meditating a measure for "jerrymandering" the constituencies in order to secure themselves in power.

Mr. SPENCER said his constituents were in favour of the Rule as it stood, which he believed to be for the advantage of the whole House, and not for a party. It was absurd to represent the Liberal party as anxious to stifle free discussion, and the Rule had no other object but to curb the licence which was eating into public life.

Mr. J. A. CAMPBELL argued that without this amendment the Resolution would be inconsistent, not to say dishonest, inasmuch as it proposed that the opinion of a bare majority should be interpreted to mean the evident sense of the House.

Mr. J. BALFOUR and Mr. ARNOLD supported the Resolution.

Mr. E. CLARKE maintained that the necessity for so odious a measure had not been proved, and that a fair trial had never been given to the existing Rules for the suppression of obstruction. The real object, however, was a party one—to enable the existing majority to carry measures which they knew they could not carry without the "gag."

Mr. STANSFELD said he had approached the subject with an *à priori* antipathy to the clôture, but he held that with the checks imposed by the Resolution—especially the words "adequately discussed"—it would be unobjectionable, and nothing short of it would suffice as a remedy. He believed that the object of everybody was not to stifle, but to compress, debate. It was inconceivable that any Speaker would declare a subject to have been adequately discussed when the whole of her Majesty's Opposition was of a contrary opinion, and for the small minorities the language of the Resolution was adequate.

Lord J. MANNERS replied that debate could not be compressed except at the cost of the private members. He denied that any case of "break-down" had been established against the present system. As to the amendment, he denied that it was an innovation, inasmuch as it had been proposed by the Prime Minister in his urgency scheme, and it was no more an innovation than the arithmetical puzzles already in the Resolution. Among other results of the clôture, he predicted an increase in the power of the House of Lords—where freedom of debate would take refuge—and the instability of future legislation. Lord E. Fitzmaurice protested against the exaggerations by which the amendment was supported, and especially the fear of a dishonest Speaker, or tyrannical Minister and servile House of Commons.

Lord R. CHURCHILL declared that a proportional majority was a greater innovation than the clôture itself, and expressed his surprise that the Tory party, which recoiled from one, should take up with the other. However objectionable the clôture by a bare majority might be it would operate against all alike, but the two-thirds clôture could only be used against the Irish party by agreement between the two front benches. At the bottom of this amendment was a fear that the Tory party was destined to a long course of Opposition and a desire to build up a little dyke under which they could shelter themselves against disagreeable measures. But how long, he asked, did they think the Prime Minister would permit them to refuse him the two-thirds majority when he asked for it? Perhaps, twice, but in the end this miserable security would inevitably be swept away. Again, he asked his Tory friends how often did they think a Liberal Opposition would give a Tory Government their assistance in getting a two-thirds majority. The ultimate effect, therefore, of the amendment must be to paralyze a Tory Government in carrying their measures.

Mr. GOSCHEN regarded the amendment as a vote of censure on the Liberal party, and repudiated altogether the fears and apprehensions expressed on the other side. But even if the Liberal party and Ministry of the future turned out to be animated by the spirit predicted of them it was not likely that they would be prevented from working their will by such a provision as this, which could be got rid of by a single vote. The real effect of the Resolution would be not to stifle discussion, but to promote adequate debate, and by thus raising the character of the House, to render it a more effectual bulwark against the dangers apprehended by the Opposition. On the motion of Mr. A. Balfour, the debate was further adjourned at 20 minutes to 6 o'clock.

LONGFELLOW AND WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

Honour to whom honour is due! The "sweet singer" of America, the simplest and most popular of all her poets, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, is to be posthumously commemorated by a marble bust in Westminster Abbey:—

English-speaking people will rejoice at this deserved tribute paid by England to a Transatlantic bard whom she considers as one of her own children, and in no sense a foreigner. At the meeting on Wednesday of the committee entrusted with the work of raising the proposed memorial, Lord Granville laid especial stress, in his very graceful oration, on the high morality and deep patriotism which pervade every line of Longfellow's writings. It may safely be said that, without these characteristics, his poetry would never have become so popular, both in the cottage and the palace, as it undoubtedly is. Longfellow can hardly claim equal rank with such poets as Tennyson or Browning, certainly not with Wordsworth or Byron. Of his own countrymen Whittier and Bryant may be deeper, Lowell may be cleverer, and Poe more brilliant; but there is an indefinable charm about "Evangeline" or "Hiawatha" which is quite unique, and which shows what great effect may be produced by language of the severest and homeliest simplicity. Lord Granville was very happy in his remarks as to the impossibility of regarding an American poet as a genuine foreigner, any more than we can reconcile ourselves to looking upon our Transatlantic visitors, when they appear in England, as strangers, like Frenchmen or Germans. The precedent of a bust to an American author in the British National Pantheon is not likely to be too extensively followed. In the case of a writer who is quite as widely read in England as in his own country, and who has been a household word with us for a quarter of a century, the honour is a natural and proper one to be rendered, and is only a slight repayment for all the pleasure which his exquisite melodies have occasioned. We must hope that the bust of the venerable bard, when completed, will be worthy of its subject. In any case, the promoters of the memorial have conferred a benefit on their country by this act of international courtesy and literary gratitude.—*Daily Telegraph.*

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

BALMORAL CASTLE, WEDNESDAY.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duchess of Connaught and Princess Beatrice, walked out yesterday morning, and in the afternoon drove with the Princess, attended by the Dowager Marchioness of Ely, through Braemar and Allan Quoich. The Duchess of Connaught took leave of Her Majesty, and with Princess Margaret of Connaught, attended by Lieutenant-General Sir Garnet Wolseley and Major and the Hon. Mrs. Egerton, left the Castle at 2 p.m. for Buckingham Palace. Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught and the infant Princess Margaret have been staying with her Majesty since the Duke left England for Egypt on the 30th of July. His Royal Highness is expected to return to England from Egypt about the 8th or 9th inst. The accounts of the Duke's health are most satisfactory. Viscount Bridport attended the Duchess of Connaught as far as Ballater, where a guard of honour of the Seaforth Highlanders (Duke of Albany's) received Her Royal Highness at the station.

The Prince and Princess of Wales received Lieutenant-General Sir Garnet Wolseley at Marlborough House on Wednesday. His Royal Highness likewise received Major-General Lowe.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and attended by Miss Knollys and Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, were present at the performance of M. Gounod's "Redemption" by the Royal Albert Hall Choral Society on Wednesday.

The Duke of Edinburgh visited the Prince and Princess of Wales on Wednesday.

Count Karolyi arrived at the Austrian Embassy, Belgrave-square, on Wednesday, from Vienna. The Countess and family are expected to arrive at the Embassy about Wednesday next.

Count Mohrenheim, the Russian Ambassador to the Court of St. James, has arrived at Claridge's Hotel, from St. Petersburg.

The United States Minister has returned to London from his leave of absence, and has resumed his duties at the Legation.

Eleanor Duchess of Northumberland has arrived in town from Stanwick Park, after visiting the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland at Alnwick Castle, and will shortly leave for the Continent, her Grace intending to pass the winter in the South of France.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Ormonde and Lord Arthur Butler have left for Kilkenny Castle, Ireland.

The Earl of Gainsborough has arrived at Exton Park, Rutland, from paying visits in Ireland.

The Earl of Lucan left on Monday last for Castlebar, his seat in county Mayo.

The Countess of Cardigan and Lancastre has arrived at 1, Lowndes-square, from Cardigan Lodge, Newmarket.

Lady Henry Somerset and Miss Blanche Clogstoun have arrived at 43, Farm-street, Mayfair, from Reigate Priory.

The Secretary of State for War has expressed himself desirous that no time should be lost in issuing the medal for the campaign in Egypt.

POLITICAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

The Committee upon the Reorganisation of the Medical Department of the Army, over which the Earl of Morley presides, held its first sitting on Wednesday, and examined one witness on the subject of the preliminary arrangements in this department for the Egyptian campaign. It will, we understand, sit from day to day during the whole of the present month, and will renew its inquiries after a short adjournment. It is hoped that the Report will be ready before the meeting of Parliament next Session. As some misapprehension exists with regard to its aims, it may be well to state that it is not in any respect of a penal character. It is not an inquiry into imputed misconduct. The sole object of the Committee is to discover any weak points that may exist in the medical organisation of the army which the late campaign in Egypt may disclose, in order to their immediate rectification. With this view the Committee desires the completest and most thorough investigation, and is anxious to receive really relevant evidence from any persons who may be able to contribute facts and suggestions.

We understand that there is no foundation for the report that Sir Rivers Wilson is about to return to Egypt.

We have reason to believe that in the announcement made to the French Government of the intentions of her Majesty's Government with respect to the control of the public debt in Egypt, it is intimated that the single Commissioner is to be appointed to hold office for a term of five years.

Lord Dufferin's stay in Egypt is likely to be of considerable duration, certainly not less than three months. He will, however, retain his post as Ambassador to the Porte, being in the position of an Ambassador "on leave."

The statement circulated by Reuter to the effect that five hundred British troops are to be sent to the Soudan is without foundation. The British Government accept no responsibility in connection with the Soudan, and neither English money nor English troops will be engaged in the suppression of the revolt.

As evidence of the measure of public interest taken in the kind of debate now going on in the House of Commons, it may be mentioned that on no night during the autumn session, as far as it has gone, has there been any necessity to ballot for places in the Strangers' Gallery. There has always been room for applicants, whereas during the earlier part of the session there were invariably three or four times as many applications as there were seats.

THE TOO-TOO FIRE.

[Abbey's Park Theatre was yesterday consumed by fire . . . Mrs. Langtry's apartment overlooked the scene. Among many who called upon her while the fire was raging was Mr. Oscar Wilde, who remarked, "It is a beautiful fire."—*Daily Newspaper.*]

The manager swore, and the lady lamented;
The merciless flames mounted higher and higher:
When, lo! the calm poet this solace presented,
"Be comforted, friends! 'Tis a beautiful fire."

He dwelt on its chords of intense white and yellow,
Of umber and chrome he impassionedly spoke,
He remarked how the crudest of reds became mellow,
In softening effects of harmonious smoke.

He bade them observe how consummately precious
The glow that suffused the crepuscular sky,
He adjured them to note how unspeakably gracious
The ribands of flame that were waving on high.

He showed, of the sparks the importance appraising,
How each had a value distinct of its own;
And to every burnt rafter, red, blackened, or blazing,
He warmly ascribed utter rightness of tone.

In a word, he explained, with the power of a master
How well as a picture the fire had "composed,"
And declared his belief that this kind of disaster
Had ne'er scheme of colour so perfect disclosed.

Enthralled by the eloquent voice, will he nill he,
Unfortunate Abbey sat fixed to his chair;
The tears disappeared from the eyes of "the Lily;"
The manager listened, forgetting to swear.

The drift of his quite too inspiring discourses
Was borne to the ears of the Firemen's Brigade,
Who were scarcely restrained from withdrawing their forces.
Ere further artistic destruction they made:

And away to the eastward in jealousy frantic,
Which storms equinoctial but feebly express,
Bemoaned the despised and rejected Atlantic
Its fierce rival element's signal success.

While greatly relieved hear Columbiam utter:
"Good: something I've found him at last to admire.
Ah, blest conflagration! which Oscar the Utter
Has graciously 'passed' for a 'beautiful fire.'"

—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM "TRUTH.")

The principal work that has been carried out at Windsor Castle this autumn, in addition to the usual routine of renovation, has been the fitting up of a suite of rooms for the Duke and Duchess of Albany. They include the rooms which were formerly set apart for Prince Leopold, and the suite now consists of five apartments, which have been re-decorated from designs chosen by the Queen and Princess Beatrice. It lies between the private rooms occupied by the Queen (which include the set which was used by the Prince Consort) and those allotted to the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh. The windows look to the East Terrace and Home Park on one side, and towards the Long Walk on the other. It is in contemplation to make a new grand staircase at the Castle, and the plans have been approved by the Queen, but nothing is definitely settled on the subject. The expense would be very great.

Since Claremont became the private property of the Queen, a variety of alterations have been carried out. The inside of the house has been entirely redecorated, most of the rooms have been refurnished, and all Prince Leopold's books, pictures, and "properties" have been brought here from Windsor and Osborne. The gardens, which were in splendid order when the Orleans family resided here, have latterly been neglected, but now they are to be properly kept up. The stables have also been reconstructed, and a new lodge has been built on the Esher and Oldham-road, from which a road direct to the house is being made.

The number of pages which the Duke and Duchess of Abercorn with their descendants contribute to the "British Peerage" makes the Hamilton family of special interest to those whose favourite literary studies are Burke, Debrett, and Co. The celebration of the golden wedding of the Duke and Duchess caused much excitement in Tyrone. Many congratulatory addresses were presented. The family group on the terrace at Baron's Court, where they all assembled to be photographed, made a pretty and interesting picture. "Sed angeli, etc., might well have been said of the group of children.

Our police magistrates must needs be men of varied accomplishments. Last week one had to judge whether a lady's dress had been well or ill-made. This week one of these unfortunate functionaries has had to decide whether a slap of the face, given by a man to his lady-love, was a smack or "affectionate pat." As the lady had refused to listen to her lover's suit, and it was after his having pursued her to London, and she had refused to speak to him in the street, that the "pat" was given, the magistrate was probably right in accepting the lady's view of the matter, that it hurt, and was intended to hurt.

I certainly would advise all towns and local authorities to pause before they either take powers themselves or grant any to Companies to take up their roadways, in order to lay electric rods. No one is more desirous than I am that electricity should replace gas. The former, however, has not yet arrived at its commercial phase. No existing dynamo-machine can supply electric light at anything like the price of gas. All that have done so for a short time have lost by these contracts, which were merely entered into in order to humbug the public into taking the shares of these sub-Companies. Men of scientific acquirements, and not mere "patent" quacks, are devoting themselves to arrive at this result; but until it is reached, it is absurd to precipitate action.

There cannot be much "depression" in West Somerset, judging from the prices obtained last week at the sale of the Dillington Park cellar, of the late Major Vaughan-Lee, M.P. The port (1854) went at 90s. per dozen; 1858, at 76s.; 1873, at 54s. Pale sherry fetched 73s., and brown sherry, 87s. Champagnes, 87s. and 86s. Laffitte of 1858 went at 100s., Léoville of that superb vintage at 100s.; and Laffitte of 1870 fetched 79s. The Rhine wine, however, went very cheap, Liebfraumilch of 1865 fetching only 50s. per dozen.

I hear that public opinion at Sierra Leone was entirely on the side of the ex-missionaries who murdered the poor girl, and that they would certainly have been acquitted had the prosecution not been in the hands of an exceedingly clever negro barrister.

There are great complaints among the students of the Inns of Court with regard to the difficulty of the Bar final examination. If, however, it has the result of reducing the number of briefless ones, I don't think much harm will be done. I must, however, say that I think that some of the questions in the Equity paper at the last exam. would puzzle even Sir George Jessel himself.

As one hears a good deal about the difficulty of ladies not blessed with this world's goods finding remunerative employment, I extract the following curious advertisement from the *Berks and Oxon Advertiser* for their benefit. It will be seen that the lady will not only be liberally rewarded as an amanuensis, but that when not thus employed she will be able to contemplate a stone inscribed "Charles Eyre," and to fish in a trout stream:—

An amanuensis required, at the beautiful village of Ewelme, Oxfordshire, by George Eyre, Esquire, whose son Charlie died at the College of Boulogne-sur-Mer, leaving him a widower without issue. He was interred at Ewelme, where there is a stone inscribed "Chas. Eyre," nearly three centuries ago. The same Chas. Eyre gave the communion service now used in the church. The lady must speak French and other accomplishments; whether they are certificated or otherwise would not be objected to. She must be aged 25 to 40. She would be most liberally rewarded. There is a stream running through the village to the Thames, and Mr. Eyre has a beautiful trout-stream opposite his home.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACT.

The Electric Lighting Act is causing a considerable turmoil amongst the local authorities of the Kingdom. Two deputations from them have just sought counsel from the President of the Board of Trade upon the subject, one of them for the express purpose of obtaining protection against the activity of the Electric Lighting Companies. In that instance the local authorities—not of Birmingham—but of various places in the neighbourhood—mildly asked Mr. Chamberlain to suspend the operation of the Act, so as to prevent the Companies from pushing matters forward at a pace which the authorities felt to be somewhat embarrassing. The Companies were ready to undertake the lighting of the districts by means of electricity, whereas the authorities, although they desired to do the work themselves, had no idea at present how to go about it. Balsall Heath, Handsworth, Saltley, Aston, and King's Norton were unready for the electric enterprise, and wished the Board of Trade to effect a postponement. But Mr. Chamberlain declared himself unequal to the task of nullifying the newly-created Statute, and he could only advise the deputation to make terms with the companies, or to fight the question out by opposing the application for a provisional order. Three companies were in the field, each and all desirous of the privilege of lighting up the localities in question with the new form of illumination. Handsworth and the contiguous districts are not exceptional in their troubles. There is a general siege of British towns on the part of the electric lighting companies, some half-dozen of these enterprising bodies having apparently resolved to claim the greater part of the country as an arena for their especial enterprise. Of course this is so far a proof that the Electric Lighting Act is effecting the purpose for which it was designed. Had the Statute simply provided that the Town Councils, Local Boards, Metropolitan Vestries, and other authorities could introduce the electric light into their jurisdictions or not, just as they pleased, the probability is that they would have dallied with the question for an indefinite period. But their hands are being forced by

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THE DEBATE ON THE CLOTURE.

The House of Commons has rejected by a majority of 84 the proposal to make the clôture dependent on a non-party vote. Sir Stafford Northcote's speech in closing the debate on the Conservative side as well as Lord Hartington's reply showed signs of the spirit which, it is to be feared, the threat not less than the application of the clôture will generate. The leader of the Opposition and the Secretary for India are both men inclined to moderate courses, but it is not mere inclination that will suffice to resist the demoralising effects of conflicts in which the traditional restraints of Parliamentary life will be thrown away. Nevertheless, though it is inevitable that there should be irritation on the one side and a tendency to domineer on the other, it is the duty of public-spirited men to prevent or abate the mischief. It is for the Liberal leaders and the Liberal party to show—as far as they can and as long as they can, for they cannot command the future—that the evils predicted as consequences of the decision of the House on Thursday night have been exaggerated. For our own part, we should be well pleased if events were to show that we were wrong, though we have seen no reason in these debates to withdraw a single one of our objections. It is no less plainly incumbent upon the leaders of the Opposition, although they have struggled against what they believe to be a perilous and unjust policy, to do all that in them lies to save the State from the disastrous results. Their good intentions and their capacity to serve the country will at once be tested in this regard, and we trust that Sir Stafford Northcote, notwithstanding some ambiguous expressions in his speech on Thursday night, will use his influence to show that in the presence of defeat the Conservative party can rise superior to mere temper. It is not, of course, to be contended that the Opposition, who are generally hostile to the clôture in any form, should not fight the remaining amendments to the first resolution, and finally go into the division lobby with Sir Stafford Northcote on the proposal to reject it altogether. But when the first resolution is carried, as it will be, probably in the course of next week, it will be to the credit of the Opposition to put aside the recollection of their present defeat, to forget the slur placed upon them in being denied the confidence hitherto recognized as a part of the comity of Parliament, and to control whatever irritation may be felt. The remaining resolutions—excepting the scheme of Grand Committees and setting aside differences of opinion about details not of primary importance—are, in the main, accepted equally by Conservatives and Liberals. It will be a manly, sensible, and patriotic course in the former to approach the discussion upon these without prejudice, and to give the Government assistance in passing them in the most effective form. The battle which ended last night in the victory of the Government was well and fairly fought. Considering the season of the year and other difficulties, the numbers mustered on both sides were respectable. In a House of 560 members—only some 90 being absent, paired and unpaired—238 voted for Mr. Gibson's amendment, and 322 against it. The Ministerial majority was strengthened by the accession of a strong contingent of Irish members, who voted against the amendment as affirming no less than the original resolution the principle of clôture; but this reason logically will range them on the other side when Sir Stafford Northcote's direct negative is put to the vote. The Government, however, can afford to see this deduction made from the numbers recorded on Thursday night, especially as there will be a set-off in the persons of those who, disliking the clôture by a bare majority, are yet not prepared to say that there should be no clôture at all.—*Times*.

The *Standard* says:—Mr. Gibson's Amendment has been lost, and Sir Stafford Northcote's will probably share the same fate, though it may be by a considerably diminished majority. It is clear, from the tone of the Ministerial speeches, that it would be idle to trust to the consideration of the Government. Mr. Gladstone intends to push his victory to its furthest extreme, and to manipulate its results to his own political advantage. In the House of Commons on Thursday night he announced that the debate on the Procedure Resolutions would be continued till the whole of them were disposed of; and in the reply which he made a few hours earlier to a Deputation of Liberal Associations that waited on him in Downing-street, he frankly explained the reasons why this course would be taken. They are, indeed, no secret. Ministers themselves have openly admitted the fact that the chief, or rather the sole motive of Mr. Gladstone in insisting on the clôture, is not to put down Obstruction, but to enable the Government to carry out their Legislative programme. Obstruction, it is universally admitted, could be prevented by the infliction of more stringent penalties on individuals, or by the other Resolutions which follow that enacting the clôture. But this would not convert the House of Commons into what Mr. Cowen felicitously styled the other night a "Bill-spinning machine," and it is that which Mr. Gladstone wants. The work of legislation is unquestionably behindhand, but does the country really desire the vast changes contemplated in Mr. Gladstone's programme? A few practical and useful measures like the Bankruptcy Bill, the County Boards Bill, and the River Floods Prevention Bill, would do much to clear the way. But the exigencies of the Government are greatly in excess of this. To them legislation is as the breath of their nostrils. "The only excuse," declared Mr. Gladstone to the Deputation which waited upon him on Thursday, "he could make for bringing the House back to London at this season of the year, after a hard and trying Session, was the grave importance of the question"—the question, that is, of converting the House of Commons into a speedy and effective machine for the grinding out of Bills. It is for this that free debate is, so far as new Procedure Rules can bring about that result, to be stifled. Sir Stafford Northcote made that abundantly plain on Thursday night, and he showed that, notwithstanding the failure of Mr. Gibson's Amendment, the whole subject which the clôture opens up has still to be weighed and settled. No one supposes that the clôture will make the present Speaker the mere passive instrument of the will of the Ministerial majority of the day. But is there any reason to suppose that his successors can avoid sinking to this position? The Speaker may still honestly essay the duties of an arbiter between the rival Parties of the State; but by degrees, and against his will, it may be, he will find his authority exercised on behalf of the Government of the day, and he will be himself identified with its official management. That is a real danger; and as the Debate proceeds we trust that the House will be impressed with a more wholesome and vivid sense of the perils of the prospect.

LORD R. CHURCHILL.

When men are desponding and do not well know what to do, anybody is likely to be hailed as a deliverer who announces in sufficiently loud and confident tones that he knows what ought to be done. This was one of the great secrets of Lord Beaconfield's success. The turning-point in his whole political career was the moment when he sprang to the opportunity given him by Sir Robert Peel's conversion to Free Trade principles, and the bewildered and demoralized condition of Peel's former party. Just now the Conservatives are almost equally bewildered and demoralized. At a critical moment Lord Randolph Churchill, whom hitherto most persons only regarded as playing at politics, suddenly intimates that he is determined to become a statesman, and tells those around him that if they want to know where a real living Conservatism is to be found he is the man who is able to show it to them. The mere fact that a man has the aptitude to see and to seize upon such an opportunity proves that he possesses an amount of political capacity which it would not be reasonable to disregard. We cannot help thinking, therefore, that the line of cleavage in the existing Conservative party has already been indicated. The want of union between the titular leaders and the party goes much deeper down than complacent Conservative writers would have us believe, and Lord Randolph Churchill's speech on Thursday has given a new spirit to the sundering influence. We have not for ourselves much faith in the possibility of a Conservative party successfully undertaking the work of the Liberals. If the franchise question and the land question and the Irish question had to wait until they were settled by the Conservative party, or by a Conservative party, they would have to wait a long time indeed. The Conservatives will never reform anything unless for the sake of snatching a chance from the Liberals, and therefore the work of reform, even when done by the Conservatives, remains Liberal work all the same. But what we have been considering is not the position which the Conservative party are likely to take in the country hereafter; we are speaking of the position which Lord Randolph Churchill is likely to take hereafter in the Conservative party. This Conservative democracy will come to no more than Lord Beaconsfield's Conservative democracy or that Young England of which Lord John Manners and Lord Lamington are almost the only living representatives. But it may help Lord Randolph Churchill to come to something, and that is the matter in which people feel a present interest. It is not much against an English public man, when he goes in for serious political business, that he was rather eccentric at the opening of his career. The eccentricity is sometimes of positive service in calling attention to his existence and to his claims. Lord Randolph Churchill has now proved that he has a better title to recognition than mere eccentricity, and politicians on his own side, as well as on the other, will have to take account of him.—*Daily News*.

PUBLIC IMMORALITY.

Those who are familiar with the streets of London will not be surprised to find that the Vestries of parishes bordering on the Strand, Regent-street, Waterloo-place, the Haymarket, and Piccadilly are bestirring themselves to have some check put upon the exhibitions of profligacy and vice which make some of those thoroughfares almost impassable for decent people during many hours of the night, and even of the day. But the gentlemen present at the meeting held at the Vestry Hall in St. Martin's-place on Thursday were somewhat needlessly anxious to deprecate the idea that they had come together in the interests of morality. They had certainly nothing to gain by explaining that they would not have lifted a finger to help the clergy or to extinguish vice, but that when commerce was interfered with, and rents were affected, they thought the time had come to invoke the aid of legislation to protect them against a growing evil which threatens to become intolerable. It is conceivable that Parliament might be moved to put down a public scandal and social nuisance, but it certainly will not be brought to listen to mere complaints of Mammon against Ashtaroth. If, however, we pass over this error of judgment, and come to the definite Resolutions arrived at by the meeting, and the speeches by which they were supported, the fact is at once painfully apparent that no one really knows what to suggest. In the matter of practical suggestion we get no further than unanimous resolutions that the law dealing with these wretched women, and the houses they frequent, and the shops where vicious literature and abominable pictures are sold, is "inefficient;" that the Metropolitan parishes ought to combine to ask for further repressive powers; and that the Home Secretary should be requested to receive a deputation on the subject. There is no doubt that the evil, considered as a public nuisance, is not beyond the reach of stringent measures; but the preliminary necessity is to make up our minds as to the line upon which we will proceed. The vice itself will not be sensibly diminished till a great change for the better takes place in the moral character of our society generally. But if we determine to repress the offensive evidences of a depravity which in itself does not offend us, we may either recognise, regulate, and provide for the evil, as is generally the rule on the Continent; or we may determine that, let our morality be what it may, vice shall not flaunt itself—except decently—in public, and shall be allowed no private haunts except such as outwardly conform to the strictest demands of propriety. The former is the easier; the latter the more conformable to British ways of thinking, but also the more difficult. In London, as at present constituted, it would require the united simultaneous efforts of all the parishes—and when did London Vestries ever work together for any good object, even so small a thing as paving the roads? Even now the momentary union is only among those who find rents falling and trade slackening.—*Standard*.

THE EGYPTIAN TRIALS.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Thursday:—

The Turkish officer, Ragheb Bey, who speaks English, and served as the means of correspondence between the Sultan and Arabi, and who was sentenced some months ago to 15 years' imprisonment at Alexandria, was brought before the Commission of Inquiry today, and will be summoned for the defence. Counsel having protested against any more witnesses being called until the defence is ready to proceed, it has been agreed that the proceedings should be stayed after four days, and then adjourned *sine die* to complete the communication of the evidence. Several prisoners declare that the report of their interrogatories has not been correctly made, and Yakoob Sami desires to withdraw all his former declaration, which he alleges was made under fear, produced by the nocturnal assault. These delays must be expected continually. Among the most striking defects of the Egyptian character is an utter disregard of truth, Arabi himself being admitted, even by his friends, to have this national vice in a degree as extraordinary as his power of memory. All the prisoners are now practically in close communication with each other through their counsel, and it is only natural that they should manage to present a consistent history of events.

Meanwhile, intrigues from Stamboul are still continuing and will continue until Egypt's connexion with Turkey is severed, and this bootless trial terminated. Is it still too late to put an end to proceedings which can only have one result for the prisoner and the country? It may be assumed that Arabi will neither be executed nor allowed unconditional freedom. The result to the prisoners is already evident. The result to Egypt is that authority is being destroyed, the administration neglected, and pressing questions put aside, because this one futile inquiry absorbs all attention. The Soudan question, the fatal legacy of Arabi's Government, threatens our future. Our future policy in regard to the Control cannot be seriously discussed; sufferers must await compensation till counsel have aired their eloquence; prisoners must wait untried until one prisoner formally receives a sentence already known. Judicial reform for the nation must wait while a judicial farce is enacting. The direct cost to the country of the recent disturbances can now be approximately estimated. The deficit will be about £E200,000, instead of a surplus of about that amount. This is better than was expected. It will probably be thought advisable to cover this by suspending the sinking fund for one year. It would be useless to incur one debt to lessen another, and the sacrifice involved would fall equally on borrower and lender. The rumours that difficulties had arisen with the French Controller were quite unfounded. Since Sir A. Colvin's return he has received notice of Councils *pro forma*, but has not attended. M. Brédif receiving the same, construed it as an invitation, but, after an exchange of views, agreed that both should receive notice of the proposed business, but should not attend pending negotiations. The list of persons appointed to form the Commission on Judicial Reform contains the names of two Frenchmen, one Italian, 12 natives, and apparently no English.

Cholera has appeared at Mecca, and 700 soldiers are required to form a sanitary cordon. It is stated that Egyptian soldiers will be enrolled and sent to the Soudan under an Albanian officer. Recent experience leads one to fear that this may only prove an expensive way of providing the followers of the False Prophet with Remingtons. Prior to the news of the arrest of Suleiman Sami Daoud, Arabi had handed to counsel, among his written instructions, a declaration repudiating any connexion with that individual, stating that having heard the report of his threatening to burn Alexandria, he sent for him and enjoined him peremptorily to desist, adding that he only saw the flames when he was far beyond Ramleh. On the other hand, the prosecuting counsel declare they have ample evidence that Arabi returned from Ramleh Palace during the conflagration, and that he met Suleiman at the Rosetta Gate.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

BALMORAL CASTLE, THURSDAY.

Yesterday afternoon the Queen and Princess Beatrice, attended by the Dowager Marchioness of Ely and the Hon. Victoria Baillie, left the Castle for the Glassalt Shiel.

General Viscount Bridport has left Balmoral.

THE QUEEN'S CELEBRATION OF HALLOWEEN.

Out of compliment to the Duchess of Connaught, who was to leave Balmoral the following day, the Queen gave instructions for the annual Halloween celebration at the Castle to take place on Monday night, twenty-four hours before the true time of the festival. About six o'clock 200 torchbearers paraded on the lawn in front of the Castle, and arrived at the huge stack of material for the bonfire, which had been erected near the front door. The torches were applied to the pile, and there then appeared from the mews a band of grotesque-looking spirits playing instruments, and preceded by a majestic-looking demon, who was followed by four demons bearing a chair in which was seated a witch, who was taken from the chair and pitched into the flames amid the shrieks and howls of the attendant demons and a large crowd of spectators. A limited supply of the national beverage was then distributed, and dancing was begun and kept up for some time to the strains of Ross, the piper. The healths of the Queen, the Princess Beatrice, and the Duchess of Connaught were pledged and heartily drunk, and the singing of the National Anthem brought the proceedings to a close. The Queen, the Duchess of Connaught, and the Princess Beatrice, with Sir Garnet Wolseley, remained till the termination of the sports.

The Prince of Wales, attended by Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, went to St. Bartholomew's Hospital on Thursday morning in order to visit the artisan Frederic Mustoe, who met with an accident at Mr. Nordenfeldt's works on Monday last from the effects of the explosion of a shell which, by desire of Captain Lord Charles Beresford, R.N., he was preparing for his Royal Highness.

The Duchess of Connaught visited the Prince and Princess of Wales on Thursday and remained to luncheon.

The Duke of Cleveland has arrived at Cleveland House, St. James's, from Raby Castle, Durham.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Headfort, Lady Adelaide Taylour, and Miss Wilson Patten have arrived in Belgrave-square, from Winmarleigh, Garstang.

Lady Francis Gordon and Miss Gordon have returned to town from abroad.

Mr. Brandling and Julia Countess of Jersey arrived in Wilton-place on Thursday, from Scotland.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE WORKING OF THE IRISH LAND ACT.

There were 60 questions on the paper, covering eight pages of the votes, and "question time" lasted two hours and a quarter. An inquiry from Mr. Healy relating to proceedings in one of the Land Courts, from which the authorities at the Table had struck out an obnoxious passage, led to a long interruption. Mr. Healy, not being allowed to repeat the passage in giving notice of another question, moved the adjournment of the House to protest against this, and was informed by the Speaker that if he wished to attack the Chair it must be by direct resolution. Mr. Healy then proceeded to denounce the administration of the Land Act, especially the appointment of Court valuers. Mr. Dickson, Mr. Givan, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Callan, and Mr. O'C. Power spoke in the same strain. Mr. Trevelyan explained the motives of the Government in consenting to these appointments, but disclaimed all responsibility for the *personnel* of the appointments. Mr. C. Lewis and Mr. Mulholland also spoke, while Mr. C. Russell and Mr. Parnell suggested that a day should be given for the discussion of the subject; but Mr. Gladstone said that until the debate on the Procedure Resolutions had approached nearer its close, he could give no assurance on the subject.

EGYPT.

In answer to questions from Sir S. Northcote, Mr. GLADSTONE said it was intended to propose annuities to Sir G. Wolseley and Sir B. Seymour, but he could not say that the proposal would be made this Session, and it would not be necessary to set up Committee of Supply, as the annuities would go on the Consolidated Fund. As to the cost of the army of occupation, that was being defrayed at present under the authority granted by the House; but now that the military revolt had been put down and a portion of our army was retained in the country for purposes which ought to be discharged by the Egyptian army, it was thought right that a contribution should be asked from Egypt. Before the business was finally wound up, it would be necessary to make a further demand on Parliament; but the excess on the Vote of Credit, he believed, would not be so great as to make it necessary to make it before the Government was in a position to give the House a complete view of the matter. Sir S. Northcote, having asked whether the Government conceived they had authority to keep a portion of her Majesty's forces in a foreign country for the purpose of maintaining the peace there without a direct vote of Parliament, Mr. Gladstone replied that he could hardly understand what they were to ask Parliament for. We had been at war and had concluded a peace, but at present had not been able to withdraw the whole of our force. At the statement that we had been at war, there was much ironical cheering from the Opposition side, and Sir W. Lawson asked when the war began and with whom we had been at war. To this Mr. Gladstone replied that we had certainly not been at war with any Power, but had carried on military operations for the suppression of a military revolt, and as to the date he referred Sir Wilfred to his speech on the Vote of Thanks.

In answer to a question from Mr. Bourke, Sir C. DILKE said that Arabi Pacha was being tried for abusing a flag of truce, for exciting Egyptian subjects on August 25 to rise against the Government of the Khedive, for continuing the war after peace had been concluded (at this there was some laughter), for exciting the people to civil war, and for committing acts of massacre, destruction, and pillage on the Egyptian territory. Mr. Gladstone, being asked by Lord R. Churchill whether there was any precedent for our action and attitude in regard to Arabi Pacha under the circumstances, the Prime Minister mentioned the convention concluded by the Duke of Wellington after the battle of Waterloo, and the Elliot Convention. Mr. Bourke asked whether the Prime Minister's attention had been called to the precedent of the first Afghan war, but Mr. Gladstone denied that there was any analogy between the cases.

THE CLOTURE.

The adjourned debate on Mr. GIBSON'S amendment on the Clôture Resolution was resumed by

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, who, replying to Lord R. Churchill, pointed out to him that there was already an artificial majority in the resolution, and though a two-thirds majority might be a slender protection, it was better than no protection at all. Possibly the two-thirds majority might not be of much advantage to a Conservative Ministry, but it was proposed, not from a party point of view, but in the interests of freedom of debate. As to the special danger of small minorities, he did not believe it, because the two front benches were never likely to agree, except on some overpowering reason. He believed that the whole support the Government received in the country arose from the impression they had created that they only intended to deal with obstructions, and again he called on Mr. Gladstone to explain why, if the two-thirds clôture was a deterioration of the present system and worse than no clôture at all, he had offered to take it in May.

Mr. LABOUCHERE rose, amid some laughter, to state, as he said, the view of the democracy on the point at issue. Though he supported the Prime Minister, he would not have troubled himself, he said, to come down to vote if he had thought with him the clôture would only rarely be exercised against the Constitutional Opposition. On the contrary, he hoped it would be used often for party purposes and in the interests of speedy legislation. The democratic idea was frequent Parliaments, *plébiscites* on all great measures, followed by a mandate to the Government to carry them. When the country had made up its mind, discussion was useless, and he would give the Opposition half an hour to state their views and no more. When this democratic millennium arrived, he looked forward to passing numerous measures in this way and so to bringing the country rapidly into harmony with the "spirit of the age."

Colonel STANLEY congratulated the House on having at last got "the whole truth and nothing but the truth" as to the motives which induced the democratic party to support the clôture. He opposed the power because he believed that it would be exercised absolutely and at the will of a majority, and he held that the safeguards were inefficient, that the position of the Chair would become intolerable, and that it would be used not against obstruction, but to put down free discussion and to convert the House into a mere legislative machine.

Mr. COLLINGS announced his intention of supporting the clôture as a means of enabling the Government to carry its measures. Mr. Henderson spoke on the same side, and Mr. H. Fowler, while disclaiming any desire to gain a party advantage, vindicated the right of the majority to parcel out the time of the House.

Mr. NEWDEGATE supported the amendment, and Mr. Stuart-Wortley argued in defence of artificial majorities, pointing, among other precedents, to the three-cornered constituencies.

Mr. CHAPLIN asked how far the Government and the Liberal party generally agreed with the views of Mr. Labouchere; and, anticipating that the Opposition would be beaten, he declared that their defeat would be due to the Kilmainham Treaty and the ill-omened alliance between the Government and the Irish party.

Mr. WALTER recognised the necessity of a clôture of some kind, and held that the problem was to reconcile it with the consideration due to the rights of minorities. Examining the alternative proposals of the Government and the Opposition, he preferred the latter, because it recognized the rights of minorities which that of the Government denied them altogether. The resolution itself set a precedent of proportionate majorities, and as to the argument that the present measures were carried by bare majorities he denied that the relations of members to each other as members could be dealt with on the same footing as their relations as members of opposing parties. On the whole, he would prefer to place the clôture in the hands of the Speaker than to call for the intervention of a party majority.

After some remarks from Mr. G. RUSSELL,

Mr. PARNELL said that though he was of opinion that the clôture would increase the friction of parties, and retard rather than facilitate legislation, he had no hesitation, as between the two-thirds and the bare majority, in preferring the latter. He agreed with Lord R. Churchill that the two-thirds scheme would be used against the Irish party alone; but under the Government plan, whatever measure was meted out to them would also be meted out to the Conservatives. At the same time, he and his friends reserved their judgment on the question of clôture or no clôture.

Sir S. NORTHCOTE said he would not pry into the secret negotiations of which the speech just delivered was the outcome, but if the Opposition were to be beaten, he was glad that it would be by the aid of those who were the cause for this Resolution. This particular measure, he pointed out, had not been recommended by any one of the 14 Committees, and Mr. Gladstone's authority in the matter was much weakened and discredited by his vacillation and his frequent feverish changes of purpose. He felt the weight of the appeal that some improvement was needed in the mode of doing business, but, whatever changes were made, the chief reliance must be on the good feeling of the House, and he was convinced that the clôture would destroy this good feeling, would make party contests more bitter, and would destroy the confidential relations between the Speaker and the different sections of the House.

Lord HARTINGTON denied that there had been any secret negotiations with the Irish party, and disclaimed altogether the imputation that this Resolution was intended to benefit one particular party and would silence the other. He denied that it would have that operation. Adverting to Mr. Labouchere's speech, he denied his right to speak as the representative of the general Liberal party, and declared that if he thought it probable that the closing power would be used in the spirit described by him, he should have great doubts about being a party to it. But no constituency, he believed, expected that any measure, however much it might be desired, should be passed without full discussion. The object and intent of the Resolution were that every subject brought before the House should be adequately, but not more than adequately, discussed; while prolixity could have no other object but to waste time and defeat legislation. Comparing the Resolution and the Amendment, he pointed out, among other objections to the latter, that it would place the power of closing the debate in the hands of the leader of the Opposition, who was in no way responsible for its exercise. The power of interposing delay by mere talk could not be a valid barrier against any measure strongly desired by the people.

Mr. CALLAN made some remarks, and on a division being taken, Mr. Gibson's amendment was negatived by a majority of 84—322 to 238.

The House adjourned at 10 minutes past 1 o'clock.

THE DIVISION ON THE CLOTURE.

The division which was taken in the House of Commons on Thursday night upon Mr. Gibson's amendment to the first procedure resolution was by no means as large as that of the 30th of March, when Mr. Marriott's amendment was defeated by 39 in a House of 602 members (including the Speaker and the tellers). Thursday night the House was composed of 565 members, but the Government majority on this occasion was 84. The following fifteen Liberals voted against the Government:—Sir Thomas E. Colebrooke, Mr. Courtauld, Mr. Cowen, Mr. Dundas, Mr. C. W. Fitzwilliam, Mr. H. W. Fitzwilliam, Mr. W. J. Fitzwilliam, Mr. Fort, Mr. Albert Grey, Mr. D. J. Jenkins, Sir John Lubbock, Mr. Marriott, Mr. Nicholson (Petersfield), Mr. Seely (Nottingham), and Mr. John Walter. All these, with the exception of Mr. Walter, Mr. Marriott, and Mr. Cowen, supported the Government in March. Mr. P. A. Taylor, who voted for the amendment of Mr. Marriott, did not vote on the present occasion. Mr. Brogden, Sir Donald Currie, Mr. E. S. Howard, Sir James Lawrence, Alderman W. Lawrence, Sir Andrew Lusk, Mr. Norwood, Sir Nathaniel M. de Rothschild, Mr. C. Russell, Sir John G. T. Sinclair, and Mr. C. P. Villiers, who were absent from the March division, now voted with their party. The Liberals who supported the Government last March, but who were now absent (several of them, however, had paired) were Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. Allen, Mr. Allman, Mr. R. P. Blennerhasset, Colonel Carington, Mr. Crum, Baron de Ferrières, Mr. Leeman, Lord Ebrington, Mr. A. R. D. Elliot, Mr. F. J. S. Foljambe, Lord Douglas Gordon, Mr. Henderson, Mr. W. Holmes, Mr. H. Mason, Sir Frederick Milbank, Mr. McLaren, Mr. Playfair, Mr. Portman, Sir John Ramsden, Sir Edward Reed, Mr. J. M. Richardson, Mr. Rylands, Sir John St. Aubyn, Mr. Seely (Lincoln), and Mr. Bridges Willyams. The Conservatives who were absent on the last occasion, but who now voted were Sir Henry Peek and Mr. Phipps; while those who were absent now but present in March were Mr. Brymer, Mr. E. Clarke, Mr. Close, Mr. Ewart, Mr. Orr Ewing, Mr. Gorst, Mr. Staveley Hill, Lord Henry Lennox, Lord Percy, Mr. Storer, Colonel Taylor, Lord Henry Thynne, Mr. H. J. Tollemache, Mr. Watney, Sir Henry Wolff, and Mr. Wyndham. Two Conservative Home Rulers (Mr. Bellingham and Mr. Lever), and one Liberal Home Ruler (Mr. Shaw) voted with the Opposition; while forty-one Home Rulers supported the Government. Lord Randolph Churchill did not vote upon either occasion. The following Home Rulers who supported the amendment of Mr. Marriott now opposed that of Mr. Gibson: Mr. Biggar, Mr. Byrne, Mr. Callan, Mr. W. T. Corbet, Mr. Daly, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Gill, Mr. E. Gray, Mr. Healy, Mr. Lalor, Mr. Macfarlane, Mr. McCarthy, Mr. McCoan, Sir Joseph McKenna, Mr. P. Martin, Mr. Molloy, Colonel Nolan, Mr. A. O'Connor, The O'Gorman Mahon, Captain O'Shea, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. O'Connor Power, Mr. Redmond, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Sullivan, and Mr. Synan.

POLITICAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

Private intelligence received in London during the past day or two states that the Mahdi is making rapid progress in the conquest of the Soudan. It appears, however, that there is no reason to believe that Khartoum has fallen into his hands.

The French Government still preserve their attitude of resistance to the proposal of her Majesty's Government that the control of the Egyptian Debt shall be undertaken by a single commissioner to be nominated by the Khedive. The French Government have not at any time varied from their position that the Joint Control still exists, and can be broken up only by the mutual consent of the two Powers which established it.

The Gray Committee will conclude its labours in the course of next week. It is possible that it may not sit beyond Monday next.

In a case outside the immediate range of politics in which Mr. Biggar is personally concerned, negotiations which at one time seemed to point to an amicable conclusion have, we understand, fallen through, and the matter at issue will, after all, be referred to a jury.

THE TROOPS FROM EGYPT.

Two steam transports arrived at Woolwich from Egypt on Thursday afternoon, namely, the *Osprey*, No. 2, and the *Libra*, No. 64, both belonging to the General Steam Navigation Company. The former brings home some Marines and Marine Artillerymen who were wounded and were detained at Malta until convalescent. One of the men has a ridge on his scalp caused by a bullet, which nearly cost him his life, and several still carry in their flesh the missiles which wounded them. In the other ship were Major L. W. Taylor, Royal Artillery, Captain H. Jenkins, 17th Lancers, Lieut. Anderson, 96th Regiment, and Surgeon-Major Lyons, of the Army Medical Department. She also brings home the wife of Colonel Richard Oldfield, Royal Artillery, from Malta, and several soldiers' families. These ships, being a few days behind the *Pelican*, escaped the storm which was so disastrous to that vessel, and as they carry no horses, have been free from the worst consequences to which troopships are usually exposed in bad weather. The remainder of the *Pelican's* horses, which were too weak to move from their stalls on Wednesday, were extricated on Thursday, and carried to the horse infirmary in tumbrils. It was proposed, as an act of mercy, to shoot them where they stood, but the veterinary surgeons thought that their lives might possibly be saved, and it was resolved to give them a chance. The horses and mules which came home earliest have greatly improved in a few weeks, and many of the latter have been sold. Although choice specimens of their kind, they have not brought anything like their value. Those sold at the hammer have realised an average of barely £10, which is not more than a third of the money expended in purchasing them and getting them over from South America. The Queen has expressed a wish to purchase three of them, and they will be employed for carrying deer. They are all large and powerful animals, from 15 to 17 hands high.

It was notified to the troops on Thursday by the Quartermaster-General that the 2d York and Lancaster Regiment, on arrival from Egypt on Wednesday next, will be quartered at Aldershot until further orders. On the same day a detachment of the Telegraph troops of the Royal Engineers will arrive by the *Nepaul*. A strong detachment of Commissariat and Transport Corps yesterday returned to Aldershot from Egypt. One hundred mules were also brought to the camp.

The troopship *Iberia*, which left Malta on the 24th ult., arrived at Portsmouth on Thursday after a very rough passage across the Bay of Biscay. She had on board the 1st Manchester Regiment (63d), which disembarked and went by train to Warley, and a detachment of the Commissariat and Transport Corps for Aldershot. The *Arab*, the last of six large steamers taken up by the Government for the conveyance of all the barrack and hospital equipment required by the Army of Occupation in Egypt, left Portsmouth on Wednesday afternoon. The duty of shipping these enormous quantities of stores has thrown a great strain upon the Naval Transport and Ordnance Departments, which have already had their hands full with the vessels arriving back from Alexandria, Cyprus, Malta, and Ismailia. Under the direction of Admiral M'Crea, Commissary-General of Ordnance; T. Satchwell, Assistant Commissary-General of Ordnance; J. E. Taylor, and C. Eastmead, the work has been satisfactorily carried out, and within a fortnight from this the troops in Egypt will be as well provided for as if they were in their own comfortable barracks in England.

The hired transport *Ascalon*, from Alexandria, arrived at Portsmouth on Thursday evening, after a protracted voyage. She has on board two companies of the 1st Battalion Seaforth Highlanders (73d), and No. 17 Company of the Commissariat and Transport Corps, the former for Parkhurst (Isle of Wight) and the latter for Portsmouth, Aldershot, and Woolwich. No men died during the voyage, but 35 horses succumbed to sickness and the violent rolling of the vessel during Thursday night's gale.

A banquet was given to the officers and men of the N Battery A Brigade Royal Horse Artillery by the Mayor and citizens of Coventry on Thursday night, in the Corn Exchange, covers being laid for about 400, including 145 of the men and officers. The Great Hall was splendidly decorated. The walls were covered with trophies of arms and the names of the battles in which the Battery has been engaged in letters of gold. The corridor was filled with ladies. The band of the 2d Warwickshire Volunteers occupied the orchestra. The loyal toasts having been given and enthusiastically received, the Mayor proposed the principal toast, coupled with the names of Lieut.-Colonel Borrodaile and the officers of the N Battery A Brigade Royal Horse Artillery (cheers). Colonel Borrodaile, who responded, was received with prolonged cheers. He said, in regard to the army, that so far as his experience went he could say that its patient endurance of hardship and illness, its discipline and quiet bravery when called upon, were qualities which had won the admiration of their countrymen (cheers), and they asked for no greater reward.

THE TACTICS OF THE LATE CAMPAIGN.

A great deal of nonsense has been talked about the wonderful strategy displayed in the Egyptian campaign by the flank attack, and many of Sir Garnet's admirers have gone out of the way in trying to credit their hero with properties which he himself would be one of the first to disclaim. Lord Northbrook, in a speech at Liverpool, lately went further still, and by telling his audience how he saw Sir Garnet at the War Office before starting put his finger on the map of Egypt at Tel-el-Kebir, and say, "Here I shall fight the decisive battle of the campaign, and that on the 13th of the next month"—sought to invest him with the gift of prophecy; an art which we poor mortals are given to think is only possessed by the gods, and sporting tipsters. "Defend me from my friends," may well be Sir Garnet's motto; for what can do a man in his position so much harm as to be made ridiculous. Nothing can be more mortifying to a successful general than the consciousness that a Ministry are regarding him as an item of their political stock-in-trade, and that their laudations of his victory are not intended as compliments to him, but as persuasives to the electors to continue their confidence. The people who listened to Lord Northbrook knew that he was talking nonsense, for the thing was put to them in a light which made it appear so to men like themselves who are not educated sufficiently in military science to understand the reason the General had for making the remark. No idea of prophecy occurred to him. He had been told that Arabi would not fight; but he thought that he would, and the plan of the campaign which practical soldiers knew would be necessary, contrary to the opinion of the visionaries, who held to the dream of the Jericho revival, had been arranged. This naturally enough was, that with the command of the seaboard we should go by sea—an inexpensive route—as near to Cairo, which was our objective, as we could; and the nearest point to Cairo is Ismailia. By landing there we save some 40 miles' land journey over the road from Alexandria; besides avoiding those nasty looking works at Kafr-Dowar, which lay across that way, and which we hoped that Arabi would not have time to repeat elsewhere. He would try to repeat them across our road to Cairo when he found we were coming that way, and of course choose the spot on the edge of the cultivated delta where the green disappears in the sand; keeping his men in comfort while ours slept out in the desert; and that spot was Tel-el-Kebir. It was not Arabi who selected it; Sir Garnet had already done that with his finger when it was decided to advance by way of Ismailia

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THE CLOTURE.

The *Saturday Review* allows that, if the new rule is to be accepted with all the qualifications read into it, it seems likely to do little or no harm. But it is equally true that it would do little good if by doing good is meant the making it easier for the Government to press on its measures. If the closure is only to be applied on great party questions, in a very full House, at a conveniently late hour, and after the leaders on both sides have summed up the debate, the House would be exactly where it is now. It would be no worse off, but it would be no better off. The rule would be equally harmless and useless. But these qualifications have only been read into the rule, and they might be as easily read out as they have been read in. Members who affect to represent democratic opinions are confident that the interpretation would be read out directly the rule came into operation. The rule would be so worked as to give effect to the will of the people and to nothing else. If the House was always under the command of Liberals like Mr. Goschen, or Conservatives like Sir Stafford Northcote, there would be as little reason to oppose the rule as to propose it. But democracy is knocking very loudly at the door of Parliament, and would equally ruin Parliament whether it called itself Liberal or Tory. The new rule may make democracy some day more importunate and more successful. For the present, it is just possible that the rule may be practically harmless, but it will be harmless in proportion as it is inoperative.

The *Spectator* thinks it fortunate that Mr. Gibson did not succeed in getting the majority formally to resign its authority, in relation to the most pressing subject of the day, into the hands of the minority; but he did succeed in committing the Conservative party to a thoroughly unconstitutional and pernicious principle which, if once accepted, would indermine the self-confidence and nerve of every free Legislature on the surface of the earth. Once let a victorious party accustom itself to regard its own straightforward victory as in some sense unfair, only because it has not gained the adhesion of its views, and we should soon have no more firmness left in the Legislature than a vacillating man finds in himself. That, indeed, is precisely the political evil which in these days the *Spectator* most dreads. The only bad result of the greatly increased disposition to hear all sides is a diminishing confidence of conviction in the adherents of either side. Under the semblance of great controversial acrimony between the two parties there lurks a deep vacillation, which is not wholly confined to either side, as to the truth of their own position; and it is that which the *Spectator* fears more even than the pertinacity of any obstructive clique. It is the new vacillation of the public mind which has emboldened the Conservatives to demand all they now demand for a minority. And the vacillation of the public mind would have been increased tenfold if there had been this formal recognition of the rights of a minority on the part of the majority on Thursday night.

The *Economist* records the result of the division on Mr. Gibson's amendment with satisfaction. The arguments both of the supporters and the opponents of the clôture have been pitched in too high a key. On the one side visions have been conjured up of the gradual extinction of free speech at the hands of a despotic majority and a servile Speaker. On the other side, the adoption of the clôture has been represented as the one thing needful to initiate a millennium of beneficent legislation and progressive reform. It may safely be predicted that none of these exaggerated expectations have a chance of being realized. The clôture, in the singularly guarded and limited form in which it has been adopted, may do some good, and can do very little harm. As a pure question of procedure, it cannot compare in importance with several of the rules which await discussion, and which it has in the public estimation altogether overshadowed. Nor can any mere mechanical changes in the rules of debate and the arrangement of business restore to the House of Commons the vitality and dignity which are the conditions of its influence with the people and its prestige in the world.

SOCIALISM IN FRANCE.

There is a distinct danger, the *Bullionist* remarks, lest the threatened outbreak of revolution in France should be over-estimated, and fanned into open insurrection by the expression of undue apprehension. This would probably act on the smouldering fire of discontent like the blowing on expiring flames, and is therefore a course of action to be avoided. On the other hand there are perils in the imperfect structure of society which it would be unwise to ignore. Still it may be well to note that the excesses of the revolutionists, either actual or threatened, disentitle them to the consideration which might otherwise be accorded to the difficulties of the industrial classes and the sacrifices imposed on them. But the better instructed classes who plume themselves on their superiority, both social and intellectual, are themselves the victims of errors and delusions. Their contribution to the safety of society in these times, which are decidedly critical, ought to consist in submitting to the painful process of disillusion. To this discipline the higher classes are as averse as are the lower to that moderation which would be at once their virtue and their strength. Political Economy has its theories, its principles, and its science. It lays claim to be ranked among the exact sciences, but when measured by its results, its propositions are found to be less perfect in practice than in theory. It has had opportunities for at least a century, but those opportunities have shown that the maxims and rules of political economy are for the protection of the rights of man. The theories apply fairly well to property but they fail in their application to the crowd which proud political economy despises as of the baser sort. There is a philosophy that, like a Divinity, hedges wealth round about, but overlooks the higher claims of humanity, to which wealth and its little protecting duties ought to be subordinate. The rich grow richer, the poor grow poorer. The *régime* that brings out this result is not perfect, and demands the stern hand of reformation. The chief danger of the day lies in ignoring this fact. The perfection of the fabric of society is a dream of unreflecting enthusiasts. It is more, it is a dangerous fallacy. To oppose this fallacy to the wild excesses of revolutionists is to provoke an unrelenting war of classes. To emancipate ourselves from this flattering delusion is the first step towards a much-needed consolidation of the social fobric. To persist in it is to court destruction. When statesmen have further learned that a man is more precious than gold, and as far as possible have expressed this sentiment in practical legislative enactments, an effectual flank movement will have been made against the anarchists, and the task of putting down Socialists will have been half accomplished in wisdom and peaceful revolution.

The *Spectator* says:—If the great cities still govern France, as they did under previous Republics, there is some reason for the alarm reported from Paris, and partly proved by the forwarding of valuables to England; but if not, then the alarm is absurdly exaggerated. The peasantry—or, in more exact words, the five and three-quarters millions of adult Frenchmen known to possess fixed property—are the depositaries of all solid power. For the anarchists to hope to spread their ideas among these men is futile. Republicanism could and did spread among them, for Republicanism is essentially only a political arrangement, and Socialism might have spread, for Socialism is in its essence a religion, and on men of certain convictions—as, for example, Moravians, and all founders of Catholic orders—takes a very strong hold; but anarchy has against it not only human virtue, but human selfishness. It will never take hold in such a population, and at present all solid power in France is united on its repression. Only resolution is required, and of resolution we should say, judging by all recent history, there is only too much. Society in France rests on a rock, on the grand fact that property and the mass of bayonets are in the same hands. The mass of Frenchmen are like English shopkeepers, not like Continental dreamers, and they possess all power.

The *Tablet* says:—We believe that it is strictly correct to speak of a party of dynamite in France and throughout Europe generally. We believe that the Terror and the Commune were but the first and second acts in a great tragedy of which other acts remain to be played; acts which will prove to be even more terrible and sanguinary than those which the world has yet seen. And why we believe this is because principles, from their very nature, seek to embody themselves in fact, and the great underlying principle of the Revolution has not up to this time received full embodiment.

THE EGYPTIAN PRISONERS.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Friday:—

The statements in M. Ninet's letter are without foundation. Colonel Wilson, Colonel Chermside, and Mr. Beaman, chief interpreter to the Residency, all saw M. Ninet frequently. He made no complaint whatever. He was handed to no Consulate only because no Consulate would acknowledge him as its *protégé*.

I have visited to-day all the prisoners, though I was not allowed to enter into conversation. I can state that the prisons exceed in simple comfort and cleanliness any I have ever seen. In this Mr. Broadley fully concurs. Arabi's room here forms an agreeable contrast to the filthy condition of his own house when first taken over by Lady Strangford. Counsel have obtained copies of all defendants' answers to interrogatories administered to them in private. The defence is expected to lay great stress on the fact of most witnesses being themselves prisoners, and giving evidence under guard of two soldiers. Counsel for the defence state that the testimony already adduced only incriminates in a serious degree Mahmoud Sami, and no more witnesses can be called after Monday.

The prosecution profess, on the other hand, to possess proofs that must convince any impartial person. It must be remembered that a great difference exists between English and Egyptian ideas of evidence, and much difficulty may be expected on this ground. In Egypt all evidence must be accepted with the greatest caution, and frequently the most informal evidence is more trustworthy than other testimony which is legally admissible. I repeat that the verdict will be "Not proven," rather than "Not guilty." The prosecution seeks to establish that the movement was military in its origin; so far as it was general it was the result of terror and compulsion. The defence have secured a mass of evidence to prove that it was participated in and encouraged by all classes of people, such as telegrams from members of the Khedive's family at Cairo, congratulating Arabi at Kafrdawar, and Ahmed Rifaat offers to prove that during the early days of the war he went to Kafrdawar by special train with Ismail Eyoub, now President of Inquiry, and Raouf Pacha, President of the Court-martial, and that after a picnic with Arabi, all helped in the construction of earthworks. Further, that large quantities of provisions were sent to Arabi from all parts of Egypt. The truth lies between the two views. No one doubts that the Egyptians would always sympathise with the side they believed the stronger. The English are now receiving the same sympathy probably from the same persons, and most warmly of all from Arabi, but no one, not blinded by prejudice, supposes that this is a proof of national sympathy. The news from the Soudan quoted by Sir C. Dilke comes from the Austrian Consular Agent, and is not credited here.

DEATH OF COLONEL PENTON.—Col. Henry Penton, of Pentonville, Middlesex, died on Monday at Brighton, in his sixty-sixth year. Colonel Penton was the eldest son of the late Mr. Henry Penton, of Pentonville, and was born in 1817. He was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge, and was a magistrate and deputy-lieutenant for Middlesex, late Colonel of the 3d Middlesex Militia, and Lieutenant-Colonel of the 1st Sussex Rifle Volunteers.

THE PULLMAN CAR FIRE.

It is desirable (the *Saturday Review* considers) that the inquiry into the circumstances of this accident should not needlessly take the form of attack and defence, because in this way the importance of taking precautions against the recurrence of such a disaster is apt to be lost sight of:

Whether the contingency of a sleeping-car taking fire without its being possible for all the passengers to make good their escape in time ought to have been foreseen or not, there can be no question that, now that it has actually happened, it ought to be effectually guarded against for the future. The means of preventing the recurrence of the disaster fall under one of three heads—the prevention and extinction of the fire and the provision of means of escape for the passengers. As to the first, the obscurity in which the origin of the fire is likely to remain makes it the least promising head of the three. Unless some plausible hypothesis can be set up of the way in which the fire broke out it seems useless to look for any very practical suggestions as to the way in which it can be prevented from breaking out again. There ought not to be much difficulty in making ample provision both for the extinction of a fire, supposing one to have originated in the flue, and for the removal of the passengers, supposing all attempts to extinguish it to have failed. The first of these objects would be secured if the warming apparatus were so placed as to be in all its parts within view of the conductor, and if the conductor had the command of a sufficient supply of water to pour upon the wood as soon as he discovered that it was burning. It is true that the former precaution would be no protection against a fire which broke out in the interior of a berth. Ordinarily, however, even if the curtains or bed-clothes are accidentally set light to, the passenger himself would discover what had happened before the mischief had gone far, and upon his giving the alarm the conductor would have the means of putting out the fire close at hand. Supposing that these means were for some reason or other not available for the moment, the escape of the passengers ought to be secured by the immediate stopping of the train. The rule in force on the Midland Railway seems ingeniously devised to postpone the stopping of the train. The ringing of the alarm bell is treated simply as an indication to the engine driver that he should review the situation, and decide for himself whether it is likely to have been rung for sufficient cause. If the sleeping-car were placed at the end of the train nearest to the engine, it would be easy to pass along their whole length in a few seconds, and so to acquaint the driver with what had happened by the simplest and most unfailing means. When a train can be pulled up almost in its own length, it should be possible to leave it in safety almost as soon as the need of doing so becomes evident.

The *Law Journal* says:—The accident to the Pullman car on the Midland Railway brings to light a serious defect in the Regulations of Railways Act, 1868. By that Act (section 22) companies are required to provide and maintain "in every train which carries passengers, and travels more than 20 miles without stopping, such efficient means of communication between the passengers and servants of the company in charge of the train as the Board of Trade may approve." A penalty of £5 is imposed on the passenger who starts the communication without sufficient cause; but, with singular want of reciprocity, no penalty is imposed on the company which refuses to answer the call. Neglect to stop the train on the call being made, if it conduced to the death or injury of a passenger, might give ground for a civil action; but if the company choose to run this risk, and are only careful to provide an apparatus for signalling in working order, they may take notice of the signal or not as they like. The passenger, in fact, is in precisely the same condition as Glendower in regard to the spirits. He can "call," but whether there will be any result is quite another question.

FRANCE AND MADAGASCAR.

If the Paris correspondent of the *Times* may be believed, the French Government have resolved upon the immediate perpetration of an act of brigandage beside which even the Tunisian expedition was respectable:—

The Malagasy Embassy, he states, has been informed that, if the Government of Madagascar did not immediately hand over the whole of the north of the island to France, an expedition now being fitted out at Marseilles would be despatched to seize the territory. It is difficult to believe that the French Republic has stooped to the adoption of such a policy; but the news is circumstantial, and unless the French democracy opens its eyes to what is going on the world may yet be scandalized by the spectacle of the despatch of a filibustering expedition for the seizure of the dominions of a harmless and peaceful Power whose sovereignty France has bound herself by treaty to respect, and whose only offence is that it has more confidence in England than in France. It is possible, however, that the vehement opposition which the Chinese are offering to French aggression in Tonquin may save Madagascar.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

THE GOURAMI IN AUSTRALIA.—Among the dubious or dangerous animals which the Acclimatization Society of Victoria has introduced into that colony, it is interesting to learn that there is one at least which is of value and has proved a perfect success. This is the *gourami* or *gouramier*, a fresh-water fish of the carp family, which, after many attempts, has been at length acclimatized in Victoria, and has thriven and bred amazingly. Some years ago the *gourami* was brought safely in a hogshead of fresh water as far as Port Philip Heads, when, it being a very cold day in June, the black cook thought the fish would be the better for a little warmth and poured a kettle of hot water over them, so that they died. Since then we are glad to learn that the *gourami* has become established in the artificial lake at Mount Macedon. In Mauritius the *gourami*, which was introduced to the island from China about a century ago, is very much esteemed for its flavour and domestic habits. It is kept in tanks or artificial ponds near the house, and regularly fed. When the owner of the house gives a dinner-party his anxieties as to the fish-course are reduced to the minimum; for he has nothing to do but to tell his steward how many guests are expected, and the steward goes to the tank and picks out a fish of the exact size an hour or two before it is required for the cook. Such is the *gourami*, which is now added to the scanty fish-resources of Australia.—*St. James's Gazette.*

THE RECENT CREMATIONS IN DORSET.—The *British Medical Journal* publishes a report by Dr. J. Comyns Leach on the recent cremations in Dorset. The cremation of the first body was completed in little more than two hours, and Dr. Leach says:—"During the whole time of cremation, although the night was damp and oppressive, with scarcely a breath of air, and a chimney only about 22ft. high, so well did the apparatus do its work, that not the faintest trace of odour was perceptible. This, I think, was due to the free admission of oxygen through the loosely-fitting fire-clay blocks in the side, producing the perfect combustion of gases, which otherwise might have escaped unburned; and this, I think, should always be provided for, where the opening is in the end, by means of short bent tubes through the walls of the cremation chamber. The following evening, the whole apparatus being still warm, the body of Lady Hanham, who had died in her ninetieth year, was placed in the furnace, and cremation was complete in two hours from the lighting of the fires."

PARLIAMENTARY SUMMARY.

In the House of Commons on Friday Sir C. Dilke in answer to questions from Mr. Ashmead Bartlett and Lord R. Churchill as to Lord Dufferin's mission to Cairo, said that none of the Great Powers had made representations, but the Porte had made representations and explanations had been given. There were two precedents for the visit to Egypt of the British Ambassador at Constantinople—Sir H. Bulwer and Sir H. Elliot. Probably the instructions to Lord Dufferin would be included in a future batch of Papers. The adjourned debate on the Clôture Resolution was resumed, and Mr. Harcourt moved that the majority by which the clôture is affirmed shall be at least five-eighths. Mr. Gladstone opposed it, and in the course of the debate explanations were given by several Irish members of the vote given on Mr. Gibson's amendment by the Parnellite party. Mr. O'Donnell said that though his duty compelled him to go with his party, he thought the decision deplorable, and predicted that the safeguards which had gulled some of his friends would be found arrant shams. Mr. Macfarlane said that, in the vote he gave last night, he had acted in the spirit of Samson with the intention of involving as many people as possible in his own ruin. Mr. Daly and Mr. Sexton said they had voted for the Government reluctantly to punish the Conservative party for its selfishness in abandoning the cause of small minorities. Mr. Gibson protested that he had acted solely in the interest of the House at large without regard to any party, small or great, and Mr. Newdegate, Colonel Makins, Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, and Sir W. Barttelott, in supporting the amendment, expressed their conviction that the working of the clôture must deteriorate the character of debates, exasperate party spirit, and weaken the regard for the public interest which ought to be the predominant feeling with members and parties. In the end, the amendment was negatived by 146 to 70. Mr. Salt moved an amendment raising the minimum of the majority (when the minority is over 40) from 200 to 300, but Mr. Gladstone vigorously opposed it as a stultification of the vote of the previous sitting and as reducing the House to a state of absolute impotency; and on a division the motion was negatived by 72 to 35. Mr. Brodrick next proposed that the clôture should not be put in force when the minority reaches 150. This was discussed at some length, and in support of it Sir W. H. Dyke vindicated the right of the minority by moving amendments and provoking repeated discussions to call the attention of the country to the intent of the clôture which had hitherto been concealed. Speaking from a long and intimate knowledge of the House, he predicted that it would be an evil day when this resolution was put in force for party purposes. Ultimately the amendment was negatived by 84 to 45. There was also a long discussion on a proviso, moved by Mr. W. H. Smith, giving to any number of members the right of entering a protest on the journals against the application of the clôture on any particular occasion. It was opposed by the Government mainly on the ground that such protests must be in the nature of attacks on the Chair, which under a fancied impression of wrong and injustice might occasionally be couched in acrimonious and injurious language. On a division, the proposal was negatived by 98 to 67. The debate was then adjourned, and the House adjourned at 1 o'clock.

FASHIONABLE NEWS.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by the Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud, left Marlborough House on Friday for Sandringham.

Lady Emily Kingscote, Miss Knollys, Mlle. Vauthier, Fraulein Noedel, Colonel A. Ellis, Mr. Knollys, and Mr. Holzmann were in attendance on their Royal Highnesses.

Colonel A. Ellis has succeeded Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke as Equerry in Waiting to the Prince of Wales.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has consented to open the new City of London Schools on the Embankment some day, yet to be fixed, before the middle of December. The Princess of Wales is expected to accompany his Royal Highness on this occasion.

The Earl of Devon left town on Friday to visit his estates in Ireland.

The Earl of Northbrook left by Friday night's mail for Balmoral Castle to act as Minister in attendance on the Queen.

The Right Rev. J. L. Spalding, Roman Catholic Bishop of Peoria, has arrived at Claridge's Hotel from New York.

DESTRUCTIVE GALE.

The gale of Friday night appears to have been severely felt in Wales and the adjoining districts. At Monmouth the gale is said to have raged all night, accompanied with heavy rains and thunder, much damage has been done to the roofs of the houses in the neighbourhood, and several trees have been blown down. The Wye and Monnow are rapidly rising, while the Trothy has already inundated large tracts of land. Serious floods are again anticipated.

A message dated Saturday from Chester says:—A heavy gale has been blowing here all night from the west. The high winds were heralded by drenching rainstorms which have flooded the lowlands. The Dee is rapidly rising. Between Eaton Hall and Chester the full force of the gale was experienced by the Irish mails up and down.

A heavy storm of rain, wind, and hail passed over the Knighton district on Friday night. Hundreds of acres of grain are, it is stated, so entirely spoilt by the continued wet that it is not even fit to give to the pigs, and can only be used for manure.

The steamer *Medea*, from Honfleur to Sunderland, in ballast, came ashore at 2.30 a.m. on Saturday at Camber coastguard station. The crew, numbering sixteen, were taken off by the Rye lifeboat. The captain remained on board. The Winchelsea lifeboat capsized twice, and one man was drowned. There was a heavy gale and strong sea.

RELEASE OF MR. GREEN.

In the Chancery Court of York, at the House of Lords, on Saturday morning, Lord Penzance sat to hear a motion of Dean and others *v.* Green, on behalf of the Bishop of Manchester, for the release of the Reverend Sidney Faithhorn Green. Mr. Christie appeared for the Bishop of Manchester, and Mr. Jeune represented the promoters. Mr. Christie asked his lordship, on behalf of the Bishop of Manchester, either to relax the inhibition or to direct the liberation of Mr. Green, upon two grounds. The first was that Mr. Green had received adequate punishment for the offences for which he had been imprisoned, and the second was that the offence had really exhausted itself, as the whole object of the suit had been attained. Mr. Jeune, on behalf of the promoters of the suit, said they emphatically disclaimed all responsibility for the duration of Mr. Green's imprisonment. In their judgment, if a curate had been appointed on the issue of the inhibition such imprisonment need not have occurred at all, and, if it had been necessary, need not have been prolonged, and would not have been prolonged beyond a period—measured at the outside by days and not by weeks, much less months—at which a curate to occupy the church and conduct the services according to law might have been appointed. With regard, therefore, to the motion now before the court, his clients, while not admitting that such an application could be legally made to the court by any one not a party to the suit, abstained from raising the question, and desired him to say that inasmuch as a curate at Miles Platting had now been appointed, and inasmuch as they would not doubt that the Bishop of Manchester, in applying for Mr. Green's release, would not hesitate to assume the responsibility of enforcing the rights of law and order at Miles Platting should they be endangered, they willingly left the motion in his lordship's hands, and would be satisfied with any order he might be pleased to make. Lord Penzance read a long judgment, which, after reviewing the history of the case, he concluded as follows:—"The court, having exacted obedience to its decree, is well satisfied to be able by a reasonable interpretation of the statute to put an end to an imprisonment which Mr. Green appears so little anxious to put an end to himself. So long as Mr. Green was vicar of Miles Platting it was necessary to detain him in prison to prevent his open disobedience to and defiance of the order which the court had made that he should forbear from all performance of Divine service in his parish. When he ceased to be vicar of Miles Platting, the necessity for his imprisonment ceased also. Anything like an attempt to obtain from him a recognition, however tardy, of the duty which he owes to his Sovereign and his country in rendering a willing compliance to the laws under which he lives, and under which he held his preferment, would involve a struggle with him entirely beneath the dignity of the court. I therefore pronounce Mr. Green to have satisfied his contempt, and I direct the Registrar to affix the seal of this Chancery Court of York to a writ of deliverance in the form prescribed by the statute.

THE WELCOME TO THE TROOPS.

It is announced that the Queen will witness a march past of the troops from Egypt within a few days after her arrival from Scotland. As at present arranged, the march past will take place on the parade at the back of the Horse Guards. The troops will consist of the three squadrons of Household Cavalry, the 4th Dragoon Guards, the 2nd Battalion of the Grenadier and Coldstream Guards, the 1st Battalion of the Scots Guards, the 1st Battalions of the Manchester Regiment, the Seaforth Highlanders, and the Royal Irish Fusiliers, and the 2nd Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment, with Artillery and Engineers. It is understood that the mounted arms will be on foot, the Staff only appearing on horseback.

The Mayor and the inhabitants of Portsmouth gave a banquet on Friday to the local naval and military forces on their return from Egypt. The banquet, the expenses of which were defrayed by public subscription, was held in the drill-shed of the Royal Marine Artillery, at Eastney, which was handsomely decorated and made to resemble an Egyptian hall. The chair was taken by Alderman Pink, who was supported by Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, Admiral Dowell (Commanding the Channel Squadron), Major-General Sir Frederick Fitz-Wygram (Instructor-General of Cavalry), the Hon. Thomas Bruce, M.P., Sir H. Drummond Wolff, M.P., Admiral Chads, Col. Bray, A.A.G., Col. Tuson, Col. Le Grand, Capt. Fitzgerald, Commissary-General Satchwell, Col. Cressman, Capt. Fellowes, and a number of naval and military officers. The total number of those who sat down amounted to between 1,300 and 1,400, and included the Egyptian Battalion of the Royal Marine Artillery, the officers and crews of the *Minotaur* and *Inconstant*, and a few red marines belonging to the Light Infantry Division. After dinner each man was presented with a briar pipe bearing the name of "Egypt," and a parcel of tobacco.

The public banquet to the troops who have returned to Chatham from Egypt was held in the garrison gymnasium on Friday evening. Nearly £600 had been subscribed by the inhabitants of Chatham, Rochester, and Gillingham for the banquet. About 200 of the principal townspeople and officers sat down with the troops. The men entertained belonged to the Royal Engineers and the Royal Marines.

A banquet was given on Friday night to the troops now stationed at Shorncliffe Camp, who have just returned from Egypt. The men belonged to the A and D Batteries 1st Brigade Royal Artillery, Royal Irish Fusiliers, and 4th Dragoon Guards. Sir Edward Watkin, M.P., presided. Toasts were drunk in honour of the army, navy, and volunteers, the officers and non-commissioned officers recently returned from the campaign in Egypt, and one, amid silence, to the memory of those who had fallen.

Many of the mules which were brought back to Woolwich from Egypt have been sold. Although choice specimens of their kind, they have not brought anything like their value, not to speak of their actual cost. Those sold at the hammer have realised an average of barely £10, which is not more than a third of the money expended in purchasing them and getting them over from South America.

THE TACTICS OF THE LATE CAMPAIGN.

A great deal of nonsense has been talked about the wonderful strategy displayed in the Egyptian campaign by the flank attack, and many of Sir Garnet's admirers have gone out of the way in trying to credit their hero with properties which he himself would be one of the first to disclaim. Lord Northbrook, in a speech at Liverpool, lately went further still, and by telling his audience how he saw Sir Garnet at the War Office before starting put his finger on the map of Egypt at Tel-el-Kebir, and say, "Here I shall fight the decisive battle of the campaign, and that on the 13th of the next month"—sought to invest him with the gift of prophecy; an art which we poor mortals are given to think is only possessed by the gods, and sporting tipsters. "Defend me from my friends," may well be Sir Garnet's motto; for what can do a man in his position so much harm as to be made ridiculous. Nothing can be more mortifying to a successful general than the consciousness that a Ministry are regarding him as an item of their political stock-in-trade, and that their laudations of his victory are not intended as compliments to him, but as persuasives to the electors to continue their confidence. The people who listened to Lord Northbrook knew that he was talking nonsense, for the thing was put to them in a light which made it appear so to men like themselves who are not educated sufficiently in military science to understand the reason the General had for making the remark. No idea of prophecy occurred to him. He had been told that Arabi would not fight; but he thought that he would, and the plan of the campaign which practical soldiers knew would be necessary, contrary to the opinion of the visionaries, who held to the dream of the Jericho revival, had been arranged. This naturally enough was, that with the command of the seaboard we should go by sea—an inexpensive route—as near to Cairo, which was our objective, as we could; and the nearest point to Cairo is Ismailia. By landing there we save some 40 miles' land journey over the road from Alexandria; besides avoiding those nasty looking works at Kafr-Dowar, which lay across that way, and which we hoped that Arabi would not have time to repeat elsewhere. He would try to repeat them across our road to Cairo when he found we were coming that way, and of course choose the spot on the edge of the cultivated delta where the green disappears in the sand; keeping his men in comfort while ours slept out in the desert; and that spot was Tel-el-Kebir. It was not Arabi who selected it; Sir Garnet had already done that with his finger when it was decided to advance by way of Ismailia As to the date fixed by him for the battle, if it were ever fixed at all by Sir Garnet, except as a joke, we know that had it not been for the breakdown in the transport, our men would have been at Tel-el-Kebir some days before the 13th September; and no one was more anxious to falsify his own prediction than the prophet himself—every day's delay adding another entrenchment to Arabi's position. Strategy in this campaign would have been wasted; tactics resolved themselves into mere frontal attacks. Sir Garnet did not use either, because such polished weapons would have been out of place. He just used his superior knowledge, and found it the weapon most suited to the occasion. He made himself thoroughly master of the geography of the country, knowing to a yard the distances and routes between various points; he assured himself of the worthless character of the Egyptian soldiers, and played a bold, and at times a hazardous game, on the principle "nothing venture nothing win;" he arranged with consummate skill the night advance on Tel-el-Kebir when he had once decided upon it; and when the attack succeeded, he crowned all his work by the dash on Cairo, finishing the war by a stroke, and silencing his critics, who had to admit his ability as a general once for all.—*Blackwood's Magazine.*

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM IN INDIA. — A public meeting was held in the Egyptian Hall at the Mansion House on Thursday in aid of "The National Anthem for India Fund," the object of which is to popularize the anthem among the natives of India by translating it into the native languages. Lord Stanhope presided, and there was a large attendance. The chairman stated that the object of the meeting—to consider the practicability of popularizing the National Anthem in India—might have an important bearing upon the future interests of the empire of which the City of London was the centre. Among the natives there was a feeling at heart and a knowledge that they could look over and above the particular men who had to administer the Government to the Queen-Empress as the embodiment of justice and the fountain of honour. The popularization of the National Anthem would cause a new bond to be formed between the people of this country and their fellow-subjects in India. There would be some difficulties in adapting the anthem to the musical instincts of the native people; but those difficulties could with patience be surmounted. It was desirable to encircle the globe with a spirit of loyalty to the Queen; and they would have done something if they could give the people of India an opportunity to express the undoubted loyalty which they felt. Canon Harford read a statement showing that the project had the approval of the Viceroy of India, and was being carried on with the sanction of the Secretary of State for India. Mr. Denzil Onslow, M.P., moved, Sir Louis Jackson seconded, and it was resolved that in view of the importance of the movement and of the fact that it was beyond the capability of private effort to carry it out, the nation should be invited to co-operate with and assist the committee. The National Anthem was then sung in Hindustanee by a select choir.

TRAGEDY AT CANNING TOWN.—Much consternation was caused at Canning Town on Thursday by the perpetration of a shocking tragedy on the premises of Messrs. Sankey and Son, lime and cement merchants, Essex Wharf, Barking-road. It would appear that for six or seven years past the firm have had in their employ as clerk a married man, named Henry Wells, who was twenty-six years of age, and resided in Findhom-street, Bromley. About three weeks ago Henry Callaghan, an accountant, forty-two years old, and living in Romford-road, West Ham, was appointed as manager in the office, he having formerly been in business as an oil merchant for himself. It is stated that in the course of his examination of the books the latter discovered what he regarded as irregularities. Wells, however, denied that any such existed, and undertook to prepare a balance-sheet to establish that everything was right. Yesterday morning both men arrived at the office at the accustomed time. At about half-past nine o'clock Callaghan was seated in an armchair at Mr. Sankey's desk, when Wells entered and bade him "Good morning." Callaghan replied, "I havn't patience to answer you," upon which Wells remarked, "I simply passed the compliment," and walked behind the chair. Suddenly Callaghan heard a report of firearms, and, feeling that he was struck just behind the right ear, he rose and shouted, "I am shot," thereupon falling back insensible. Without a moment's delay Wells placed the weapon—a five-chambered revolver — to his mouth and deliberately shot his brains out. Dr. Tatum, of Montague-place, Poplar, was at once called in, and pronounced life to be extinct. The police were fetched, and the constable found the revolver on the floor by the side of the body of Wells, three chambers being loaded, and the other two having been recently discharged. Six cartridges were also discovered in Wells' pocket, and thirty more were subsequently found in his desk in the office. The revolver was a small one, and called a Lefaucheux, and the cartridges were "pin-fire." The body was removed to the mortuary, where it awaits the inquest. Meanwhile Callaghan had recovered consciousness, and ran to the Victoria Tavern for some brandy. The landlord, Mr. Ball, observing that he was bleeding profusely at the back of the neck, despatched a potman with all speed for a doctor. The injured man, without waiting for the brandy, jumped into a trap which happened to be at the door, and was rapidly driven to the abode of Dr. Dowding, in Barking-road. This gentleman, seeing the nature of the case, ordered the removal of Callaghan to the London Hospital, whither he was conveyed in a cab. At the hospital he was attended to by the house surgeon, Mr. Richard Hingston, who found that the bullet was embedded in the skull about an inch behind the ear. After a while the missile was extracted, having been completely flattened, and Callaghan now remains in a state not calculated to excite alarm. The facts relating to the death of Wells, who leaves a wife and three children, were communicated to Mr. C. C. Lewis, the coroner for South Essex.

IMMORALITY IN THE LONDON STREETS.—A meeting was held in the Vestry Hall, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, on Thursday, to consider the question of immorality in the Strand and neighbourhood, and endeavouring to devise a remedy for the present state of matters. The chair was taken by the Hon. D. Ryder. In a communication read from the Chief Commissioner of Police that official said that he was at all times ready to listen to all complaints, but this matter had been so much pressed upon him that it would be useless to receive a deputation on the subject. He pointed out that the powers given to the police were very limited, and remarked on the difficulty of getting the necessary evidence to procure convictions. Mr. E. J. Watherston moved: "That this meeting of inhabitants of the Strand and surrounding districts, specially convened to consider the increase of depravity as displayed openly at all hours of the day and night in the leading thoroughfares of the West-end of London, deplores the inefficiency of the existing state of the law for the purpose of dealing with houses of ill-repute, street-walkers, and shops for the display of immoral and indecent photographs, and expresses an earnest hope that the various parochial authorities of the metropolis will combine together for the purpose of obtaining in the next session of Parliament further powers for the preservation of decency and order. The Rev. J. E. Kempe seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously. The Rev. W. G. Humphrey proposed: "That with a view to such action the Home Secretary be requested to receive a deputation to urge upon her Majesty's Government the necessity of providing for such further powers by legislation." Mr. Scott seconded the resolution, but observed that the state of the streets was better now than it was even twenty-five years ago. The motion was carried, and the Rev. H. Rowley proposed that copies of the foregoing resolutions should be sent to the Home Secretary, the Chief Commissioner of Police, the Metropolitan Board of Works, and the vestries,

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LONDON, NOVEMBER 5–6, 1882.

MR. GREEN'S DELIVERANCE.

The letter in which the Rev. S. F. Green informs his parishioners that he has resigned the living of Miles Platting is, it is to be hoped, the beginning of the end of this most sensational ecclesiastical struggle. That Mr. Green should feel some grief in abandoning a position he has clung to so tenaciously is not unreasonable, and if his determination had been prompted simply by a love of peace, his conduct would have deserved, at any rate, respectful consideration. In his letter, however, he unfortunately sets out his reasons, and these completely negative any notion that might antecedently have been formed, either that he was weary of the strife, or deemed conflict unbecoming his profession. He says, indeed, that he is moved to his present action partly by a desire not to impose upon his generous patron the obligation of fighting on his behalf an expensive legal battle, and partly by the consciousness that he would never in any case be able to resume his old position, and defy, as he was wont, the opinion of his Bishop and the decisions of the Privy Council. He, however, is at no pains to conceal the fact that these matters are but feathers in comparison with the other matters that weigh upon his judgment. He has found out, he says, from the newspapers that the Bishop of Manchester is going to move for his release, and he feels it his duty accordingly to do everything in his power to prevent the appearance of a Bishop in the Court of Lord Penzance, even by deputy. He is honest enough not to pretend that he cares for the wishes or dignity of his own Bishop. What grieves him is that a Bishop or any spiritual person whatever should demean himself by appearing as a suitor or claimant at all in a temporal court. Sooner than do this he is willing to resign a benefice, from which in the course of a few days he would certainly have been deprived. It comes a little too late this resignation, it is true; so late, indeed, that a coldly logical world might easily mistake the act for the abandonment of a position which was no longer tenable; but of this Mr. Green seems to take small account, so absorbed is he in the anxiety to emphasize by his resignation his defiance of the temporal court to which the interpretation of the laws ecclesiastical has been committed. To say that what the Vicar of Miles Platting has now done ought to have been done nearly two years ago, is, of course, a truism. He would have spared the Church he professes to love so dearly another grave scandal. As a minister of the Gospel of Peace he would have shown himself impressed with the truth of its message; above all he would have displayed a self-abnegation that would have gained him the reluctant admiration of not a few of his opponents. But he has done none of these things, and, what is more, he has added to these sins of omission a consistent indifference to the wishes of the Bishop he was bound to obey, and has left us in little doubt but that in his final decision he is actuated as much by the gratification of tripping up the spiritual father as by the joy of defying the temporal judge. This is the last scene, or almost the last scene, in the little piece in which Mr. Green has played the self-elected part of martyr.—*Observer.*

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IN ENGLAND.

From some cause or other, whether it be that the minds of promoters of new companies have been somewhat diverted from foreign undertakings through a difficulty in finding acceptance for them in this country, or from a desire to meet a want more or less pressing, enterprise has during the last few weeks rather taken the direction of bringing out schemes for developing the traffic in various parts of England than any other form of development. The railway system of the country being, with few exceptions, almost entirely complete, new arrangements for the movement of goods have been suggested. Of these, perhaps, the widest in its scope is the plan for carrying on traffic in waggons, which, while to be principally moved by steam power along railroads specially arranged for them, are yet capable of being drawn direct either to the mills in which the contents if raw material have to be worked up, or to the side of the steamer in which, if manufactured goods, they have to be shipped The scheme for this purpose, which is called "The Lancashire Plateway," is intended to obviate the cost of the intermediate handling of goods or raw materials which now takes place between the port where they either arrive or from which they are shipped for sale, and also to expedite their delivery. The proposal is to lay down at the commencement about 130 miles of a railway fitted for traffic of this description, by which the Port of Liverpool is to be brought into immediate connection with the bulk of the manufacturing districts of Lancashire. The originators of the scheme claim that not only expense and injury to the goods will be saved, but that time will be economised. Each waggon, as we have stated, is to run along the main line till the town to which it is consigned is reached. It is then to be detached from the train, and drafted by steam or horse power to its immediate destination. The railways are stated to be disposed to compete with this new method of facilitating transit by various expedients which would produce the same results. The second scheme to which we shall advert is bolder in its conception. It is nothing less than a plan to render Manchester a seaport, by forming a canal on which large ocean-going vessels are to be brought direct to that centre of manufacturing industry. The saving of expense in the transhipment of the cargo, the warehousing it at Liverpool, the sending it out again from the warehouse to the railway, and from the railway to the manufactory or the warehouse at Manchester, is claimed for this project, which, if bolder, has yet been longer under consideration than the other. It would be unsuitable for us to express any opinion as to the feasibility of either scheme, or to their prospects of success from a financial point of view. Engineers must decide the one; local experts, with a knowledge of local wants and the traffic to be dealt with, must decide the other. It would be presumptuous in a century which has witnessed the construction of the Suez Canal and the commencement of the piercing the Isthmus of Panama, which has seen railroads carried across the continent of America till the most distant States of the Union are more closely unified now with the means of rapid intercommunication than Great Britain was within the memory of many now living, to doubt the possibility of carrying out, from an engineering point of view, of enterprises far more difficult than a ship canal to Manchester. But the question which these new projects force on our consideration is of another character. It is that both, though differing widely from each other in detail, are the outcome of one of the most marked features of modern business life—the gradual squeezing out of the middleman. In other directions we find the same process extended. Co-operative institutions take the place of shops. Large shops compete with co-operative institutions by dealing straight with manufacturers. Traffic in England has been accelerated and facilitated of recent years by various expedients—by docks, by internal canals, by railways. But none of these diminished, and some of them even increased, the number of persons intervening between the producer and the consumer. Docks developed a large warehousing trade. Canals and railways developed a large carrying trade. The sharper spirit of competition now in being desires to extinguish these intermediate occupations, and to bring the producer and the consumer face to face. The nation at large will not suffer, it will even gain, the more this process is carried out. The force of competition will compel the producer at least to share, if he has not to allow, the whole of the economy resulting with the consumer. The position of the manufacturers affected will be rendered more secure, as the economy they are able to effect will enable them to compete the better with other manufacturers elsewhere. The whole movement is a part of that constant process of change in business matters which is always seeking the cheapest method of attaining a given result.—*Economist.*

PRECEDENTS OF CLOTURE.

There is a fact that has hardly been kept sufficiently in view during the debates on the clôture: it is this, that in all Continental Assemblies where large powers are vested in the President this official is elected for a brief term only. In Denmark, Sweden, and Norway he has to submit himself to re-election every four weeks. In France elections for the renewal of the Bureaux in both Houses take place every three months. A Bureau includes a President, four Vice-Presidents and four Secretaries; so that a check is kept by election, not only on all who may be required to fill the chair, but on the men whose business it is to record the proceedings of the Assembly. When Napoleon III. was drawing up the Constitution of 1852 with M. Troplong, who was afterwards to be President of the Senate, Troplong pointed out that it would be dangerous to allow the Corps Législatif to elect its own President, because "unless the President were elected for a long time he would never be independent enough towards members:" by which, of course, was meant that he would never be subservient enough towards Government. De Morny, who was for maintaining the semblance of free institutions whenever possible, thought that an overwhelming majority of official members would be able to keep a small Opposition in order; and he suggested that the President should be elected for the duration of a legislature, as in England. But Troplong's opinion prevailed; and until within two years of the Empire's end the Presidents of the Lower House were appointed by Government. De Morny during his presidentship was once rather rudely addressed by a member of the Left, who hinted that the Duke would not be sitting in the chair if his election depended on the House. "I am afraid that is true," said De Morny with his usual blandness: "the Chamber would elect a President who would reduce you to silence more often than I do." It needed a man of De Morny's exceptional power and tact to exercise the chairmanship as he did. He was, in fact, the virtual ruler of France; and Ministers of his creating dared not grumble much if he chose to be magnanimous now and then in allowing debates to be prolonged to their detriment. But when Count Walewski succeeded De Morny the case was changed, and the new President soon had to resign because Ministers, with their subservient majority, wanted to force him to apply the clôture whenever Government was in the least pressed by the Opposition. Count Walewski was President during the session of 1866, and he gave great offence to M. Rouher by allowing the Opposition to deliver some telling speeches upon the policy of the Empire in regard to the Austro-Prussian war and the Mexican expedition. The Opposition were only twenty-three strong in a House of 283 members; but their voices reached far and stirred echoes in the country which were unwelcome to official ears; so it repeatedly happened that the "evident sense of the House," as we should now say, was shown against them by an uproarious banging of desk-lids and rattling of paper-knives. Leaving the chair in disgust after one of these scenes, Count Walewski said to a member of the Right, "You might at least have listened to M. Berryer's arguments, though they would not alter your vote." "It is because they would not alter my vote that I see no use in listening to them," was the cool answer. It will be seen from this how the clôture operated under a President, who, having been nominated as a party man, wished nevertheless to keep up the decencies of justice.

But the clôture is so dangerous a weapon that it has been found impossible to regulate its proper use, even by submitting Presidents to the incessant control of members through frequent elections. The truth is that when great powers are put into the hands of a President his office becomes one which a dominant party will only confide to a proved adherent. The President may desire to be impartial and may succeed in being so on ordinary occasions; but when the fortunes of his party are seriously at stake it is only natural that he should lend his friendly assistance. The French Chambers never had a more upright President than M. Grévy; but when the Royalist majority in the National Assembly of 1873 had determined to overthrow M. Thiers, it was felt that a Republican chairman might possibly strain the forms of the House so as to annul the effect of an anti-Republican vote: and accordingly M. Grévy was got rid of by the cavalier expedient of setting up a member to defy his authority. M. Grévy appealed to the House to support him; but the members of the Right all cheered the Deputy who had put an affront upon him, and consequently he felt bound to resign. M. Buffet, who succeeded him, was also a man of high integrity; and yet when the Assembly had passed the vote which caused M. Thiers to leave office, he thought it consistent with his duty to quench all debating with a high hand in order that Marshal MacMahon might be elected Chief of the Executive without the least delay. It was in vain that the Republicans tried to gain time, feeling that if the Presidency could remain open till Monday M. Thiers having been overthrown on a Saturday—they might raise such an agitation in his favour in the country as would induce him to withdraw his resignation. Naturally it was the object of the Monarchists to prevent this, and to arrange matters so that the public, when they read of M. Thiers' resignation on the Sunday morning, should learn at the same time that the Marshal had been put in his place. The clôture was, therefore, used unsparingly: first, to burk a motion of confidence in M. Thiers which would probably have been carried, seeing that a section of the Right Centre were more anxious to see him change his policy than to dismiss him from office; secondly, to pass without debate a motion for a night sitting; and thirdly, at the night sitting to prevent all debate on the Marshal's election. In completely gagging the Republican party, M. Buffet exceeded none of his powers, but simply put them at the service of the majority; just as M. Grévy, had he been in the chair, would probably have put them at the service of the minority. Only a casuist could determine whether M. Grévy would have acted more unconstitutionally in thwarting the tactics of the majority out of deference to the supposed wishes of the nation than M. Buffet did when he ignored the nation altogether to aid the policy of a number of factions who happened to command a majority in the Assembly. The moral of the whole matter is that a President is exposed to formidable temptations when it rests with him to deny members of Parliament the exercise of that privilege of free speech for which Parliament are expressly summoned. One has only to look over files of the old *Moniteur* and of the modern *Journal Officiel* to see how often French Oppositions have been silenced in order that they might not "obstruct" the passage of Government measures; and one may consult the same periodicals to learn how long most of those laws lasted which had to be passed in such a hurry.—*St. James's Gazette.*

FROM THE CROSS BENCHES.

It is difficult to say off-hand whether the manner of Mr. Hicks or that of Mr. Alderman Lawrence is the better calculated to quell frivolity. As old and esteemed members of the House, both have frequent opportunities of supplying particulars of comparison. Yet it is difficult to institute comparison where styles are diametrically opposed. Mr. Hicks is haughty and statuesque; Mr. Alderman Lawrence, whilst peremptory, is conciliatory. Mr. Hicks knows a Radical, *ab ovo*, as he would say. There may have been times in the generous period of youth when he could regard a Radical with some hope of amendment. But that time is past, and it were mere waste of words, or of muscular power, to resent manifestations of ineradicable evil blood, made from the Benches opposite. Mr. Hicks has not been Chairman of Quarter Sessions for many years without knowing a hardened criminal when he sees him. He knows, too, the folly of wasting words upon such. The thing to do is to sentence him as quickly as possible, and have him removed from the dock to make room for more hopeful subjects. Thus, when Mr. Hicks rises, and, as is ever the case, there goes up from the Benches opposite an ironical cheer or an impatient cry, Mr. Hicks is not to be moved to retort or sign of impatience. With head haughtily thrown back, lips firmly pressed, and eyes aflame with indignant, questioning surprise, he pauses, and regards the laughing throng opposite. It were too much that he should turn and fully face them. It is a side glance with which he withers them—such haughty, questioning regard as on transpontine stage Roger de Montgomery, the wealthy lover, descended from the loins of Norman kings, casts upon the humble rival who claims his share, too, in the affections of the neighbouring squire's daughter.

Mr. Alderman Lawrence is of a more mercurial nature than Mr. Hicks, and does not naturally lean in the direction of the statuesque. He is rather a man of the world, as contrasted with a country gentleman. He has lived in great cities, is intimate with Aldgate, and has sipped black coffee on the Boulevard des Italiens. He knows the full value of that great principle of compromise for which Mr. Stanley Leighton on Friday night so eloquently, if somewhat incoherently, pleaded. A strong man is assured of triumph. But is it not better and wiser to try conciliation before resort is had to force? Mr. Alderman Lawrence thinks it is; and thus when he rises to give notice of a question (of the proportions of a Corporation Address), and when the House distinctly intimates its desire to take it as read, the Alderman, without interrupting the flow of his recitation, endeavours to reason with hon. members. Should the cries come with greater force from below the gangway to his right, he turns, and with friendly nods, designed to establish terms of secret confidence, deprecates continuance of the interruption. When the cry is taken up from the benches opposite, he turns to them also, and waves his manuscript as if it were a flag of truce. No word is spoken, but the Alderman's gestures are perfectly understood. They mean, "I see you over there, my good friend. I know you don't mean to be rude; but really, now, how can I go on giving my notice if you shout out in that way. Do be quiet, like a good fellow. I shan't be more than another quarter of an hour, and it's not nice of you to go interrupting an alderman in this way." But whilst the Alderman is thus conciliatory in manner, he is by no means weak in resolution or intent. Heaven has gifted him with a voice that would dominate any ordinary storm. The House may shout, but the Alderman, to coin a comparative, can shouter. Loud above the roar of inarticulate cries his voice is uplifted, and whilst unremitting in his courteous attention to exceptionally loud interruptions, nodding all round with friendliest manner, and frantically trying simultaneously to wave his flag of truce at parties below and above the gangway opposite, he goes on to the very last word of his notice, and sits down, feeling that he has maintained the ancient privileges and rights of the city of London.

It was comparatively early in the sitting that Mr. Hicks came out with his speech, not a word of which would he utter till he had succeeded in freezing a ribald opposition with icy stare. As an orator, the member for Cambridgeshire made his reputation in the famous speech on the Hares and Rabbits Bill, in which he proposed to discuss the subject—*ab ovo*—whence, doubtless, arose the scandal which lays to his charge the promulgation of the theory that rabbits habitually lay eggs. Mr. Hicks, of course, never said anything of the kind, though it is exceedingly difficult to know what the hon. member does say, and what is only to be inferred when his uprising is greeted with laughter and his oration interspersed with ironical cheers. But interruptions do not always come to Mr. Hicks from unauthorised quarters. Occasionally when he has triumphed over ribaldry opposite, and is setting forward with flowing sail over the wide and solemn main of his speech, the Speaker interposes. Thus it happened on Friday night. Having taken his glasses off to wither again the Radicals opposite, who showed indications of breaking out afresh, Mr. Hicks slowly replaced them, and producing from his coat-tail pocket a bundle of manuscript, turned to the Speaker and continued: "When, Sir, I had last the honour of addressing the House, I had the pleasure of showing the evils that arose two hundred years ago——" "Oh! oh!" cried the irrepressible Radicals, and Mr. Hicks, pausing, had taken off his glasses and turned to wither them once more, when he became conscious of a voice still more solemn than his own coming from the direction of the chair, and reminding him that the amendment before the House was of later date than 1682, and that it was necessary he should confine his observations to it.

Mr. Hicks is a man who respects authority, even when he fears it is not wisely directed. He had a good deal that was useful to say on the subject of the long Parliament. He might, perhaps, have glanced at English history of subsequent date. Possibly the House might have heard a few unfamiliar references to the operation of the clôture in the Corps Législatif of the time of Napoleon the Third. Canada would not have been left unnoticed, and the House might have spent an agreeable and instructive evening. Mr. Hicks is not accustomed to do things by halves. If he begins *ab ovo* he goes *ad mala*. The bulk of his manuscript testified that he had amassed a considerable wealth of detail. But this warning of the Speaker, though regrettable, was not to be resisted. With something like a sigh he returned the manuscript to his coat-tail pocket, and, after a few general remarks, resumed his seat.—*Observer.*

THE DRAMA.

TOOLE'S THEATRE.

It would not be fair, says the *Observer*, to condemn Mr. Pinero's new piece produced at Toole's Theatre last week, merely because it cannot be classified so readily and so accurately as his previous efforts. *Girls and Boys* is certainly an old mixture of sentiment and farce, of rustic comedy and whimsical burlesque, but if such a combination be well managed there is no obvious reason why it should not serve its turn well enough on the stage for which it is intended, a stage where consistency is not very strenuously demanded. Yet there can be little doubt that plays like *The Squire*, *Imprudence*, and *The Money Spinner*, each in its way remarkably definite of purpose and precise of method, had ill prepared playgoers for a medley such as *Girls and Boys: a Nursery Tale*. One expected to hear entertaining dialogue, and to meet characters freshly conceived and firmly drawn; and so far there is little reason for disappointment with Mr. Pinero's play. But something more than these was looked for in the shape of a story able to command sustained interest as well as to arouse fitful laughter in the course of its three acts; and that something was unfortunately not forthcoming. It is only for good passages and telling jokes here and there that the comedy deserves praise; as a whole, it is unsatisfactory and disappointing. By many, however, who will take but little heed of its defects as a work of art the piece will doubtless continue to be received with tolerably hearty welcome, for the simple and sufficient reason that it supplies Mr. Toole with a capital part, or, at any rate, with a part which he is able to make highly effective. The failure of those incomprehensible lovers, Mark Avory and Gillian West, to win sympathy is forgotten in contemplation of the success with which Solomon Protheroe, the cobbler-schoolmaster of Basingdene, bids for the laughter of his audience. It is true that even this success is not attained without sacrifices which we should little have expected the author to make, as when he turns Solomon's geography-lesson into a veritable burlesque, thereby destroying altogether the verisimilitude of his Dickens-like creation. It is natural enough that the simple fellow's notion of tuition should be eccentric, and still more natural that his favourite "imposition" should be an extra task connected with the manufacture of boot-laces. But it is impossible to imagine Solomon deliberately making fun of his own profession before his pupils, and the moment he does so he loses his individuality as a dramatic creation, and sinks to the level of an irresponsible comic puppet, like the Professor of the *Spelling Bee*, licensed for any extravagance, provided only that it produces harmless mirth. In spite, however, of that lack of consistency, which injures Solomon, as well as most of his surroundings, in *Girls and Boys*, he becomes in Mr. Toole's hands a really striking figure. Very seldom has the comedian employed sounder art than in his quiet suggestions of the lovable side of this foolish fellow's nature. Indeed, he saves the piece, so far as it lies in his power to save it, and yet does so without thrusting his own *rôle* into any undue prominence. Moreover, some of the scenes in which he has to figure are in themselves both original and pretty, notably those which have to do with the love inspired by Solomon in the heart of Jenny, his head pupil. Jenny is very pleasantly represented by Miss Ely Kempster, a new addition to the company. Young as she is, Miss Kempster proves able to win sympathy for a heroine, who, in timid or tactless hands, might easily become ridiculous. Jenny's rival, Miss Gillian West, as played by Miss Myra Holme, introduces the wholly incongruous element of what Mr. Pinero calls his "nursery tale." This is the struggle of a circus-rider to get herself settled in a quiet and comfortable home. At first Miss West, who is a lodger at Protheroe's house, lays herself out to win for a husband young Mark Avory, the adopted son of Josiah Papworth, the squire of the village. When disappointed here in consequence of Papworth's angry threat to disinherit Mark, she consents to obey Papworth's preposterous command and marry Solomon Protheroe. For this strange course of action she apologises by references to her poverty in cynical speeches which sound as though they might have come out of Mr. Gilbert's *Engaged*. Miss Myra Holme plays the part so seriously that we are forbidden to think it is all a deliberate joke, and are compelled to despise Mr. Pinero's heroine when, in the interests of his story, it is most necessary that we should pity her. In the last act care is, of course, taken to prevent this uncomfortable disposition of affairs. But the bad impression which has been made by the unreasonable behaviour of Solomon and Gillian, to say nothing of Avory and his guardian, is too deep to be easily removed, and the piece ends without in any way justifying its strange design. Besides the players alreada mentioned, Mr. Garden deserves note for his clever comic sketch of Joe Barfield, a loutish carpenter. So also do Mr. Billington, Mr. Ward, and Mr. Shelton, for the care which they take to make the most of their opportunities. It is a great pity that so much really good work on the part of actors, no less than of dramatist, should run the risk of being wasted.

GAIETY.

Mr. Arthur Matthison's *More than Ever*, played at the Gaiety one afternoon last week, and announced for repetition this week, proves to be an appropriate skit of the most amusing kind. Of its half-dozen *dramatis personæ*, five are murdered and the sixth commits suicide. During their brief stage career they behave themselves so much after the manner of the wicked folk in transpontine drama that it is easy to imagine the piece a serious affair at the Surrey, although at the Gaiety it is understood as an excellent joke. The chief character of *More than Ever* is Kangy, a Man Kangaroo, cleverly, though rather vulgarly played by Mr. Wyatt in imitation of Mr. Conquest's parallel creation in *For Ever*. Sir Crimson Fluid, Signor Arsenico della Morte, and the Lady Aqua Toffana are criminals of a more familiar order, and their extravagant villanies are illustrated with amusing earnestness by Messrs. Monkhouse and Henley and Miss Bella Howard. The trifle was a decided hit, and is sure to be received with loud merriment whenever it is played.

Mr. Burnand's very skilful adaptation, *Betsy*—a model piece of work of its kind—has been revived at the Criterion with excellent results. Many of the members of the original cast, including Messrs. Hill, Maltby, Lytton Sothern, and Standing re-appear, the part of Betsy, however, being assigned to Miss Bromley, instead of Miss Lottie Venne, with some gain of refinement but considerable loss of humour.

The last performances of *Patience* are now announced at the Savoy, and Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's new opera may be very shortly expected.

Pluck at Drury-lane has now passed its eightieth night and enjoys undiminished popularity. No change has taken place at the Haymarket, Lyceum, and the Adelphi. *The Romany Rye* will be withdrawn from the Princess's at the end of this week, to make room for the new play of *The Silver King*. The last week is announced of *Fun on the Bristol* at the Olympic. The Vaudeville, Comedy Theatre, and Alhambra have made no alteration in their respective programmes. The Savoy, Avenue, Surrey, Astley's, and Standard have continued to prolong the run of their respective attractions.

A children's pantomime will be played at the Avenue Theatre next Christmass during a series of morning performances at cheap prices. The subject of the pantomime chosen for the small performers is *Dick Whittington*. One of the scenes is to be a representation of the Children's Fancy Dress Ball at the Mansion House, and the whole piece is to be very elaborately mounted.

The Novelty Theatre is to open next month with *Melita*, a comic opera, and *A Double and a Rub*, a comedietta, by Mr. J. Baker Hopkins.

The *Era* understands that Miss Kate Santley had arranged to travel to the north by that Pullman car the burning of which caused such a painful sensation last week, but was fortunately detained in London by business until the following morning.

THE FLOODED VALLEY OF THE THAMES.

A few days ago the whole country between Staines and Windsor Bridge was a waste of waters. But for the tops of the hedges marking the grey expanse into squares, and the heads of pollard willows making small islands everywhere, and the golden-leaved beech trees standing with their feet in the flood, a tolerably imaginative traveller might have fancied himself at Windermere. In the old town of Windsor, too, punts were plying about the streets, and the artisans of the Royal borough were conveyed to their work much as a Venetian lady is taken to a ball. The floods are rapidly subsiding now; so fast, indeed, as to draw from the inhabitants of the flooded country expressions of wonder at their disappearance. Even yet, however, the distance between Staines and Windsor is covered by a chain of lakes, woven together by long, sinuous pools, over which travels an occasional canoe. At Datchet the trains of the South Western Railway plash through some inches of water. The pleasant village of Runnymede is surrounded by silvery streams, and anywhere between Wraysbury and Windsor Mr. Leader might make studies for a companion picture to that which he entitled, "At evening there shall be light." A flooded country is usually dismal and distressing. It would be difficult to imagine Holland looking very picturesque when one of its dykes has given way. It must nevertheless be confessed in regard to the floods in the Thames valley that they add a new beauty to the landscape. Probably the fields round Eton and Windsor never looked more interesting than they did yesterday, when the sun shone as brightly as on a day in June. It was difficult to remember that all this grey breadth of water crisply rippling under a light breeze, meant loss of time and money to the famers, and trouble and discomfort, and possible ague, to every one whose habitation is in the fields. The first sight of the floods is to be caught just beyond the railway station at Staines. The fields near the line are only streaked with water between the furrows; but half a mile away, looking towards the Thames, a broad lake gleams in the sunlight, intersected by belts of trees. Through Wraysbury and Datchet, and to beyond where the arches of the Great Western Railway stride over the fields, there are floods everywhere; but there is not on that account any monotony in the landscape. Here and there large spaces are left exposed where the waters have subsided, and after the bath it has had the country is very sweet and green. Near Wraysbury, on one side of the line, there is a small farmhouse, with a barn and a stack or two, standing as if on an island, and on the other a bed of osiers so deeply submerged that only the tops of the taller bushes are visible, swaying like reeds in a pool.

Much of the ground in the valley of the Lower Thames is of such a character that only the artificial drainage can relieve it of an inundation. Many of the fields dip towards the centre, and form natural reservoirs. Thus, there is one field where the turnips had just been pulled and left by the side of the furrows: it is now entirely covered with water, except in the close neighbourhood of the hedges, and all round the margin of the flood the turnips are left half exposed, like boulders round which the tide is playing. In one field just the tops of the tall grass are visible, with here and there a few feet of sodden ground. In another an acre of cabbages has assumed something of the appearance of a great patch of water-lilies. Wherever the floods seem to be most rapidly retiring, there gather the crows. There are crows in legions in the fields between Wraysbury and Eton. They do not confine themselves to the ground from which the flood has receded, but pick their way through the shallow water as unconcernedly as if they were herons or storks. They are at present almost the only inhabitants of the fields. Such cattle as are still at large have a slushy and unsatisfactory time of it; and as for the farmers and their men, it would be utterly useless for them to venture out of doors. Where the water does not lie in sheets it lies in broad ribands, so that, as a countryman observed, "the land is like streaky bacon, a row of fat and a row of lean."

The floods are deepest towards Eton and Windsor. Where the Datchet road runs from the bridge by the side of the Home Park it is like a stone pier shooting out into the sea. The course of the Thames is discernible only by the rapidity of the current. The Fellows' Eyot is an eyot no longer, no soil being visible, but only the upper portions of the trees. One of the smaller bridges is merely a stone coping in the middle of a stream. At one point a pump adds a touch of satire to the scene by holding up its head in the midst of a couple of acres of water. A piece of land from which the overflow has subsided is almost covered with logs of wood brought down by the Thames, and here and there great trees have been torn up by the roots and cast lengthwise into the flood. In the Home Park the waters still extend to within a short distance of the Castle-hill, and the fields beyond Eton College are more than half submerged. Much the worst part of the flood, however, is past. The people of Windsor now regard it rather with interest than dismay. Punts are no longer necessary in the streets, and where a few days ago the water was four feet high, its recent presence is only attested by a puddle. Past Windsor Bridge the Thames rushes with quite astonishing velocity, carrying off such a quantity of water that it is scarcely necessary to suppose, as do some of the inhabitants of Windsor, that the flood is subsiding so rapidly because "something has broken lower down."—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

It is unfortunately true, says the *Athenæum*, that the Hamilton collection of manuscripts has left England. But the German papers are wrong in two particulars. The collection has been sold in its entirety to the Prussian Government by Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson and Hodge, and the price paid is not that mentioned in the Berlin journals.

Mrs. Ebsworth is working hard at the "Roxburghe Ballads." Part xi. will be issued before the end of the year, and parts xii. and xiii. (the "Monmouth Group") are promised for the spring or early summer.

The *Academy* says the Clarendon Press will publish shortly "The Gospel of St. Mark in Gothic," according to the translation made by Wulfila in the fourth century, edited by Prof. Skeat. This work is intended to serve as a Gothic primer, and to introduce the beginner to fuller and more complete works on the subject. The Introduction gives all necessary information concerning the MS., the author, and the sources of the alphabet, with some account of the pronunciation, phonology, and grammar. The glossary not only explains all the words occurring in St. Mark's Gospel, but is extended to all the more important words of the language, especially such as are most required by the student of English etymology, for whom some knowledge of Gothic is indispensable.

The *Academy* understands that Mr. Browning has finished enough fresh minor poems to form a thin volume like the two last that he has published, but it is probable that he will keep them back till he has completed a longer poem to come out with them.

Mr. William Sawyer, the editor of *Funny Folks*, died on Wednesday night of typhoid fever. Mr. Sawyer was born at Brighton in 1828, and at an early age devoted himself to journalism and other literature. The works by which he is chiefly known are "Ten Miles from Town" (1867) and the "Legend of Phyllis" (1872). He also contributed to periodicals a number of works of fiction, some 25 novels and romances, and many articles, criticisms, etc. A drama, founded on a romance of his own, "Jessie Ashton," was brought out at the Surrey Theatre as the Easter novelty in 1863.

Prof. Newton informs a contemporary that he "has not relinquished his intention of continuing his edition of Yarrell's 'British Birds.' But for the accident which befell Prof. Newton in June last, a portion would have now been on the point of appearing; and he hopes before long to bring out an account of the British pigeons and game-birds, which will complete the second volume according to his original plan."

The principal astronomical event of next year is a total eclipse of the sun, which takes place on the 6th of May. At some points on the central line the totality will last nearly six minutes; but so forgetful is the eclipse of the convenience of astronomers, says the *Athenæum*, that this line, the whole of which is included in the South Pacific Ocean, only touches land on a small island situated north of the Society and west of the Marquesas group.

Mr. Joseph Thomson will leave England for Zanzibar at the end of the present month, to organise the expedition which the Royal Geographical Society are about to send, under his command, through the hitherto unexplored Masai country to the eastern shores of Victoria Nyanza.

The Dudley Gallery has, so far as its constituency is concerned, vanished, and the Dudley Gallery Art Society has taken its place, and under these new auspices the current exhibition has been opened. The lease of the premises to the former society having terminated, the tenancy has been renewed to the new one, which consists, or is to consist, of a hundred oil-colour painters and a hundred water-colour draughtsmen, each paying four guineas a year, who are severally invited to contribute works to two exhibitions annually, appointed for the same dates as before. It is stated that since 1865, when the Dudley Gallery started into existence, nearly £100,000 has been obtained for pictures there exhibited. We wish the new society good luck, and trust the managers may be able to carry into effect the proposed improvement in lighting the gallery. It is indispensable that the depressing, if not ignominious, entrance to this exhibition should be entirely altered.—*Athenæum.*

Mr. W. B. Richmond has resigned the Oxford Slade Professorship of the Fine Arts.

Mr. A. W. Blomfield has been appointed architect to the cathedral of Salisbury, a post which G. E. Street held for some years.

The clay model of William Tyndale's statue, 10ft. in height, by Mr. J. E. Boehm, will be ready for inspection during the present month. Towards the sum of £2,400 for the preparation and erection of the monument, one half has been guaranteed by 12 gentlemen, and the other £1,200 is promised or in process of collection by committees formed for the purpose.

The Institute of Water Colour Painters is preparing to remove from Pall Mall to Piccadilly, and has consequently decided not to open the usual winter exhibition. A "scratch" collection of works in oil and water by past and present members of the society and others, including some of John Martin's pictures, has been opened in Pall Mall.

It is proposed to buy by public subscription the whole of the remaining drawings of John Leech and present them, in sections, to Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, Nottingham, and other large towns, Manchester having the first group. To secure such works by this means and thus distribute them is surely more laudable than to forestall the small grant from the Treasury to the Print Room, as was lately done with regard to the purchase of the whole of J. Doyle's original drawings for the "H. B. Sketches," to obtain which the department has been crippled. Ten of the Doyles would have been quite enough to show their quality; £50 might have procured these, leaving £950 for the acquisition of desirable works of art.—*Athenæum*

Corpus Christi College, Oxford, has paid Mr. A. W. Hunt, the well-known landscape painter, the compliment of electing him to an honorary fellowship. Mr. Hunt was formerly a Fellow of Corpus. The other honorary fellows of Corpus are Mr. Ruskin, Sir H. S. Maine, Archdeacon Palmer, and Mr. Shadworth Hodgson.

The Royal Academicians (says the *Academy*) have decided to take upon themselves a task that is likely to be of great service in the study of English art. This is the reprint in volumes of all the catalogues of their exhibitions from the foundation of the Royal Academy in 1768 to the present time. Careful indexes will be made, and everything done to render the work useful for reference. No one, perhaps, who has not experienced the trouble of searching through old catalogues to find some particular fact of unknown date can estimate the advantage of such a compilation as this. To the biographer and collector it will be invaluable. It will be published, it is stated, at a price that will merely repay costs.

A MISSING BRIDE.—Mr. J. Vincent, a retired lieutenant from the Royal Navy, made application to the Westminster magistrate, on Thursday, for his assistance, and that of the Press, in the recovery of his wife, who has been missing since Wednesday. The applicant said that he resided at 30, Wellington-square, and the bride at 12, Walpole-street, Chelsea, hard by. She was an actress—or, at least, studying for the theatrical profession—and they were married on Wednesday morning, by licence, at Croydon. Thence they went

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Great-Britain.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 5–6, 1882.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE SETTLED LAND ACT.

That an Act of so much general importance as the Settled Land Act should have become law without debate, and almost without the knowledge of the public, is one of the best arguments we are aware of for reforming procedure in the House of Commons. If ever there was a statute which, in its general principles, was worthy of discussion, it is this Act; and yet land law reform has hitherto been debated not so much in the House of Commons as in the public journals. It is impossible to read the Act without perceiving that it will be fruitful of remarkable changes in the laws relating to the tenure of English land and in social arrangements. The certain consequences of the new statute are, in brief, that the practice of entailing landed property to any large extent has come to an end. Whether such a change be desirable or not we do not propose to discuss; what we desire to make clear is the probable effect of this latest measure of land law reform. The object of entailing land, whether it be done by the absolute owner of the fee-simple or a tenant for life in conjunction with the tenant in tail on his attaining the age of twenty-one, is to keep the property which is thus tied up in the family for as long a period as possible. That is the main object of the system; because provision can be made for younger children without necessarily making the succeeding owner merely a tenant for life. How, then, is this object affected by the new Act? Under the provisions of this last statute a tenant for life "may sell the settled land or any part thereof, or any easement, right, or privilege over or in relation to the same." Accordingly, therefore, however desirous the predecessor of the tenant for life may have been that the property he has left to the latter should remain in the family, it is clear that his intentions and his desires may be put aside, and the owner of an ancestral estate may part with it to the first rich merchant who will give him a high price for it. The only limitation to this power is that the principal mansion-house and the demesnes thereof shall not be sold or leased by the tenant for life without the consent of the trustees of the settlement. In most instances, it may be, trustees will not sanction the sale of the mansion-house except in cases of extremity; but it is pretty clear that, having to do the best thing they can for the property, they will acquiesce in the sale of the mansion-house when not selling it will cause the rest of the property to fetch a worse price; or when the mansion-house, bereft of the surrounding property, will itself be diminished in value; or when the whole object of the settlement—namely, to keep a particular property in a family—will be practically defeated by the sale of the estate without the mansion-house, which alone would remain a useless encumbrance in the hands of the tenant for life. Further, it must be borne in mind that if the tenant for life and the trustees differ as to the propriety of selling the mansion-house and demesnes, they may refer the matter to the High Court of Justice; and then the question will turn upon practical and not upon sentimental considerations. Nor can there be much doubt that the tenant for life will very shortly have as much power to dispose of the mansion-house as of the general estate. Such a legislative change is highly probable, seeing that the real value of settlements of land is now abolished. Who will care to go to the expense of entailing his property when it becomes a form by which he no more can keep the property in his family than by giving it outright to his son?—*St. James's Gazette.*

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IN ENGLAND.

From some cause or other, whether it be that the minds of promoters of new companies have been somewhat diverted from foreign undertakings through a difficulty in finding acceptance for them in this country, or from a desire to meet a want more or less pressing, enterprise has during the last few weeks rather taken the direction of bringing out schemes for developing the traffic in various parts of England than any other form of development. The railway system of the country being, with few exceptions, almost entirely complete, new arrangements for the movement of goods have been suggested. Of these, perhaps, the widest in its scope is the plan for carrying on traffic in waggons, which, while to be principally moved by steam power along railroads specially arranged for them, are yet capable of being drawn direct either to the mills in which the contents if raw material have to be worked up, or to the side of the steamer in which, if manufactured goods, they have to be shipped The scheme for this purpose, which is called "The Lancashire Plateway," is intended to obviate the cost of the intermediate handling of goods or raw materials which now takes place between the port where they either arrive or from which they are shipped for sale, and also to expedite their delivery. The proposal is to lay down at the commencement about 130 miles of a railway fitted for traffic of this description, by which the Port of Liverpool is to be brought into immediate connection with the bulk of the manufacturing districts of Lancashire. The originators of the scheme claim that not only expense and injury to the goods will be saved, but that time will be economised. Each waggon, as we have stated, is to run along the main line till the town to which it is consigned is reached. It is then to be detached from the train, and drafted by steam or horse power to its immediate destination. The railways are stated to be disposed to compete with this new method of facilitating transit by various expedients which would produce the same results. The second scheme to which we shall advert is bolder in its conception. It is nothing less than a plan to render Manchester a seaport, by forming a canal on which large ocean-going vessels are to be brought direct to that centre of manufacturing industry. The saving of expense in the transhipment of the cargo, the warehousing it at Liverpool, the sending it out again from the warehouse to the railway, and from the railway to the manufactory or the warehouse at Manchester, is claimed for this project, which, if bolder, has yet been longer under consideration than the other. It would be unsuitable for us to express any opinion as to the feasibility of either scheme, or to their prospects of success from a financial point of view. Engineers must decide the one; local experts, with a knowledge of local wants and the traffic to be dealt with, must decide the other. It would be presumptuous in a century which has witnessed the construction of the Suez Canal and the commencement of the piercing the Isthmus of Panama, which has seen railroads carried across the continent of America till the most distant States of the Union are more closely unified now with the means of rapid intercommunication than Great Britain was within the memory of many now living, to doubt the possibility of carrying out, from an engineering point of view, of enterprises far more difficult than a ship canal to Manchester. But the question which these new projects force on our consideration is of another character. It is that both, though differing widely from each other in detail, are the outcome of one of the most marked features of modern business life—the gradual squeezing out of the middleman. In other directions we find the same process extended. Co-operative institutions take the place of shops. Large shops compete with co-operative institutions by dealing straight with manufacturers. Traffic in England has been accelerated and facilitated of recent years by various expedients—by docks, by internal canals, by railways. But none of these diminished, and some of them even increased, the number of persons intervening between the producer and the consumer. Docks developed a large warehousing trade. Canals and railways developed a large carrying trade. The sharper spirit of competition now in being desires to extinguish these intermediate occupations, and to bring the producer and the consumer face to face. The nation at large will not suffer, it will even gain, the more this process is carried out. The force of competition will compel the producer at least to share, if he has not to allow, the whole of the economy resulting with the consumer. The position of the manufacturers affected will be rendered more secure, as the economy they are able to effect will enable them to compete the better with other manufacturers elsewhere. The whole movement is a part of that constant process of change in business matters which is always seeking the cheapest method of attaining a given result.—*Economist.*

PRECEDENTS OF CLOTURE.

There is a fact that has hardly been kept sufficiently in view during the debates on the clôture: it is this, that in all Continental Assemblies where large powers are vested in the President this official is elected for a brief term only. In Denmark, Sweden, and Norway he has to submit himself to re-election every four weeks. In France elections for the renewal of the Bureaux in both Houses take place every three months. A Bureau includes a President, four Vice-Presidents and four Secretaries; so that a check is kept by election, not only on all who may be required to fill the chair, but on the men whose business it is to record the proceedings of the Assembly. When Napoleon III. was drawing up the Constitution of 1852 with M. Troplong, who was afterwards to be President of the Senate, Troplong pointed out that it would be dangerous to allow the Corps Législatif to elect its own President, because "unless the President were elected for a long time he would never be independent enough towards members:" by which, of course, was meant that he would never be subservient enough towards Government. De Morny, who was for maintaining the semblance of free institutions whenever possible, thought that an overwhelming majority of official members would be able to keep a small Opposition in order; and he suggested that the President should be elected for the duration of a legislature, as in England. But Troplong's opinion prevailed; and until within two years of the Empire's end the Presidents of the Lower House were appointed by Government. De Morny during his presidentship was once rather rudely addressed by a member of the Left, who hinted that the Duke would not be sitting in the chair if his election depended on the House. "I am afraid that is true," said De Morny with his usual blandness: "the Chamber would elect a President who would reduce you to silence more often than I do." It needed a man of De Morny's exceptional power and tact to exercise the chairmanship as he did. He was, in fact, the virtual ruler of France; and Ministers of his creating dared not grumble much if he chose to be magnanimous now and then in allowing debates to be prolonged to their detriment. But when Count Walewski succeeded De Morny the case was changed, and the new President soon had to resign because Ministers, with their subservient majority, wanted to force him to apply the clôture whenever Government was in the least pressed by the Opposition. Count Walewski was President during the session of 1866, and he gave great offence to M. Rouher by allowing the Opposition to deliver some telling speeches upon the policy of the Empire in regard to the Austro-Prussian war and the Mexican expedition. The Opposition were only twenty-three strong in a House of 283 members; but their voices reached far and stirred echoes in the country which were unwelcome to official ears; so it repeatedly happened that the "evident sense of the House," as we should now say, was shown against them by an uproarious banging of desk-lids and rattling of paper-knives. Leaving the chair in disgust after one of these scenes, Count Walewski said to a member of the Right, "You might at least have listened to M. Berryer's arguments, though they would not alter your vote." "It is because they would not alter my vote that I see no use in listening to them," was the cool answer. It will be seen from this how the clôture operated under a President, who, having been nominated as a party man, wished nevertheless to keep up the decencies of justice.

But the clôture is so dangerous a weapon that it has been found impossible to regulate its proper use, even by submitting Presidents to the incessant control of members through frequent elections. The truth is that when great powers are put into the hands of a President his office becomes one which a dominant party will only confide to a proved adherent. The President may desire to be impartial and may succeed in being so on ordinary occasions; but when the fortunes of his party are seriously at stake it is only natural that he should lend his friendly assistance. The French Chambers never had a more upright President than M. Grévy; but when the Royalist majority in the National Assembly of 1873 had determined to overthrow M. Thiers, it was felt that a Republican chairman might possibly strain the forms of the House so as to annul the effect of an anti-Republican vote: and accordingly M. Grévy was got rid of by the cavalier expedient of setting up a member to defy his authority. M. Grévy appealed to the House to support him; but the members of the Right all cheered the Deputy who had put an affront upon him, and consequently he felt bound to resign. M. Buffet, who succeeded him, was also a man of high integrity; and yet when the Assembly had passed the vote which caused M. Thiers to leave office, he thought it consistent with his duty to quench all debating with a high hand in order that Marshal MacMahon might be elected Chief of the Executive without the least delay. It was in vain that the Republicans tried to gain time, feeling that if the Presidency could remain open till Monday M. Thiers having been overthrown on a Saturday—they might raise such an agitation in his favour in the country as would induce him to withdraw his resignation. Naturally it was the object of the Monarchists to prevent this, and to arrange matters so that the public, when they read of M. Thiers' resignation on the Sunday morning, should learn at the same time that the Marshal had been put in his place. The clôture was, therefore, used unsparingly: first, to burk a motion of confidence in M. Thiers which would probably have been carried, seeing that a section of the Right Centre were more anxious to see him change his policy than to dismiss him from office; secondly, to pass without debate a motion for a night sitting; and thirdly, at the night sitting to prevent all debate on the Marshal's election. In completely gagging the Republican party, M. Buffet exceeded none of his powers, but simply put them at the service of the majority; just as M. Grévy, had he been in the chair, would probably have put them at the service of the minority. Only a casuist could determine whether M. Grévy would have acted more unconstitutionally in thwarting the tactics of the majority out of deference to the supposed wishes of the nation than M. Buffet did when he ignored the nation altogether to aid the policy of a number of factions who happened to command a majority in the Assembly. The moral of the whole matter is that a President is exposed to formidable temptations when it rests with him to deny members of Parliament the exercise of that privilege of free speech for which Parliament are expressly summoned. One has only to look over files of the old *Moniteur* and of the modern *Journal Officiel* to see how often French Oppositions have been silenced in order that they might not "obstruct" the passage of Government measures; and one may consult the same periodicals to learn how long most of those laws lasted which had to be passed in such a hurry.—*St. James's Gazette.*

FROM THE CROSS BENCHES.

It is difficult to say off-hand whether the manner of Mr. Hicks or that of Mr. Alderman Lawrence is the better calculated to quell frivolity. As old and esteemed members of the House, both have frequent opportunities of supplying particulars of comparison. Yet it is difficult to institute comparison where styles are diametrically opposed. Mr. Hicks is haughty and statuesque; Mr. Alderman Lawrence, whilst peremptory, is conciliatory. Mr. Hicks knows a Radical, *ab ovo*, as he would say. There may have been times in the generous period of youth when he could regard a Radical with some hope of amendment. But that time is past, and it were mere waste of words, or of muscular power, to resent manifestations of ineradicable evil blood, made from the Benches opposite. Mr. Hicks has not been Chairman of Quarter Sessions for many years without knowing a hardened criminal when he sees him. He knows, too, the folly of wasting words upon such. The thing to do is to sentence him as quickly as possible, and have him removed from the dock to make room for more hopeful subjects. Thus, when Mr. Hicks rises, and, as is ever the case, there goes up from the Benches opposite an ironical cheer or an impatient cry, Mr. Hicks is not to be moved to retort or sign of impatience. With head haughtily thrown back, lips firmly pressed, and eyes aflame with indignant, questioning surprise, he pauses, and regards the laughing throng opposite. It were too much that he should turn and fully face them. It is a side glance with which he withers them—such haughty, questioning regard as on transpontine stage Roger de Montgomery, the wealthy lover, descended from the loins of Norman kings, casts upon the humble rival who claims his share, too, in the affections of the neighbouring squire's daughter.

Mr. Alderman Lawrence is of a more mercurial nature than Mr. Hicks, and does not naturally lean in the direction of the statuesque. He is rather a man of the world, as contrasted with a country gentleman. He has lived in great cities, is intimate with Aldgate, and has sipped black coffee on the Boulevard des Italiens. He knows the full value of that great principle of compromise for which Mr. Stanley Leighton on Friday night so eloquently, if somewhat incoherently, pleaded. A strong man is assured of triumph. But is it not better and wiser to try conciliation before resort is had to force? Mr. Alderman Lawrence thinks it is; and thus when he rises to give notice of a question (of the proportions of a Corporation Address), and when the House distinctly intimates its desire to take it as read, the Alderman, without interrupting the flow of his recitation, endeavours to reason with hon. members. Should the cries come with greater force from below the gangway to his right, he turns, and with friendly nods, designed to establish terms of secret confidence, deprecates continuance of the interruption. When the cry is taken up from the benches opposite, he turns to them also, and waves his manuscript as if it were a flag of truce. No word is spoken, but the Alderman's gestures are perfectly understood. They mean, "I see you over there, my good friend. I know you don't mean to be rude; but really, now, how can I go on giving my notice if you shout out in that way. Do be quiet, like a good fellow. I shan't be more than another quarter of an hour, and it's not nice of you to go interrupting an alderman in this way." But whilst the Alderman is thus conciliatory in manner, he is by no means weak in resolution or intent. Heaven has gifted him with a voice that would dominate any ordinary storm. The House may shout, but the Alderman, to coin a comparative, can shouter. Loud above the roar of inarticulate cries his voice is uplifted, and whilst unremitting in his courteous attention to exceptionally loud interruptions, nodding all round with friendliest manner, and frantically trying simultaneously to wave his flag of truce at parties below and above the gangway opposite, he goes on to the very last word of his notice, and sits down, feeling that he has maintained the ancient privileges and rights of the city of London.

It was comparatively early in the sitting that Mr. Hicks came out with his speech, not a word of which would he utter till he had succeeded in freezing a ribald opposition with icy stare. As an orator, the member for Cambridgeshire made his reputation in the famous speech on the Hares and Rabbits Bill, in which he proposed to discuss the subject—*ab ovo*—whence, doubtless, arose the scandal which lays to his charge the promulgation of the theory that rabbits habitually lay eggs. Mr. Hicks, of course, never said anything of the kind, though it is exceedingly difficult to know what the hon. member does say, and what is only to be inferred when his uprising is greeted with laughter and his oration interspersed with ironical cheers. But interruptions do not always come to Mr. Hicks from unauthorised quarters. Occasionally when he has triumphed over ribaldry opposite, and is setting forward with flowing sail over the wide and solemn main of his speech, the Speaker interposes. Thus it happened on Friday night. Having taken his glasses off to wither again the Radicals opposite, who showed indications of breaking out afresh, Mr. Hicks slowly replaced them, and producing from his coat-tail pocket a bundle of manuscript, turned to the Speaker and continued: "When, Sir, I had last the honour of addressing the House, I had the pleasure of showing the evils that arose two hundred years ago——" "Oh! oh!" cried the irrepressible Radicals, and Mr. Hicks, pausing, had taken off his glasses and turned to wither them once more, when he became conscious of a voice still more solemn than his own coming from the direction of the chair, and reminding him that the amendment before the House was of later date than 1682, and that it was necessary he should confine his observations to it.

Mr. Hicks is a man who respects authority, even when he fears it is not wisely directed. He had a good deal that was useful to say on the subject of the long Parliament. He might, perhaps, have glanced at English history of subsequent date. Possibly the House might have heard a few unfamiliar references to the operation of the clôture in the Corps Législatif of the time of Napoleon the Third. Canada would not have been left unnoticed, and the House might have spent an agreeable and instructive evening. Mr. Hicks is not accustomed to do things by halves. If he begins *ab ovo* he goes *ad mala*. The bulk of his manuscript testified that he had amassed a considerable wealth of detail. But this warning of the Speaker, though regrettable, was not to be resisted. With something like a sigh he returned the manuscript to his coat-tail pocket, and, after a few general remarks, resumed his seat.—*Observer.*

THE DRAMA.

TOOLE'S THEATRE.

It would not be fair, says the *Observer*, to condemn Mr. Pinero's new piece produced at Toole's Theatre last week, merely because it cannot be classified so readily and so accurately as his previous efforts. *Girls and Boys* is certainly an old mixture of sentiment and farce, of rustic comedy and whimsical burlesque, but if such a combination be well managed there is no obvious reason why it should not serve its turn well enough on the stage for which it is intended, a stage where consistency is not very strenuously demanded. Yet there can be little doubt that plays like *The Squire*, *Imprudence*, and *The Money Spinner*, each in its way remarkably definite of purpose and precise of method, had ill prepared playgoers for a medley such as *Girls and Boys: a Nursery Tale.* One expected to hear entertaining dialogue, and to meet characters freshly conceived and firmly drawn; and so far there is little reason for disappointment with Mr. Pinero's play. But something more than these was looked for in the shape of a story able to command sustained interest as well as to arouse fitful laughter in the course of its three acts; and that something was unfortunately not forthcoming. It is only for good passages and telling jokes here and there that the comedy deserves praise; as a whole, it is unsatisfactory and disappointing. By many, however, who will take but little heed of its defects as a work of art the piece will doubtless continue to be received with tolerably hearty welcome, for the simple and sufficient reason that it supplies Mr. Toole with a capital part, or, at any rate, with a part which he is able to make highly effective. The failure of those incomprehensible lovers, Mark Avory and Gillian West, to win sympathy is forgotten in contemplation of the success with which Solomon Protheroe, the cobbler-schoolmaster of Basingdene, bids for the laughter of his audience. It is true that even this success is not attained without sacrifices which we should little have expected the author to make, as when he turns Solomon's geography-lesson into a veritable burlesque, thereby destroying altogether the verisimilitude of his Dickens-like creation. It is natural enough that the simple fellow's notion of tuition should be eccentric, and still more natural that his favourite "imposition" should be an extra task connected with the manufacture of boot-laces. But it is impossible to imagine Solomon deliberately making fun of his own profession before his pupils, and the moment he does so he loses his individuality as a dramatic creation, and sinks to the level of an irresponsible comic puppet, like the Professor of the *Spelling Bee*, licensed for any extravagance, provided only that it produces harmless mirth. In spite, however, of that lack of consistency, which injures Solomon, as well as most of his surroundings, in *Girls and Boys*, he becomes in Mr. Toole's hands a really striking figure. Very seldom has the comedian employed sounder art than in his quiet suggestions of the lovable side of this foolish fellow's nature. Indeed, he saves the piece, so far as it lies in his power to save it, and yet does so without thrusting his own *rôle* into any undue prominence. Moreover, some of the scenes in which he has to figure are in themselves both original and pretty, notably those which have to do with the love inspired by Solomon in the heart of Jenny, his head pupil. Jenny is very pleasantly represented by Miss Ely Kempster, a new addition to the company. Young as she is, Miss Kempster proves able to win sympathy for a heroine, who, in timid or tactless hands, might easily become ridiculous. Jenny's rival, Miss Gillian West, as played by Miss Myra Holme, introduces the wholly incongruous element of what Mr. Pinero calls his "nursery tale." This is the struggle of a circus-rider to get herself settled in a quiet and comfortable home. At first Miss West, who is a lodger at Protheroe's house, lays herself out to win for a husband young Mark Avory, the adopted son of Josiah Papworth, the squire of the village. When disappointed here in consequence of Papworth's angry threat to disinherit Mark, she consents to obey Papworth's preposterous command and marry Solomon Protheroe. For this strange course of action she apologises by references to her poverty in cynical speeches which sound as though they might have come out of Mr. Gilbert's *Engaged*. Miss Myra Holme plays the part so seriously that we are forbidden to think it is all a deliberate joke, and are compelled to despise Mr. Pinero's heroine when, in the interests of his story, it is most necessary that we should pity her. In the last act care is, of course, taken to prevent this uncomfortable disposition of affairs. But the bad impression which has been made by the unreasonable behaviour of Solomon and Gillian, to say nothing of Avory and his guardian, is too deep to be easily removed, and the piece ends without in any way justifying its strange design. Besides the players already mentioned, Mr. Garden deserves note for his clever comic sketch of Joe Barfield, a loutish carpenter. So also do Mr. Billington, Mr. Ward, and Mr. Shelton, for the care which they take to make the most of their opportunities. It is a great pity that so much really good work on the part of actors, no less than of dramatist, should run the risk of being wasted.

GAIETY.

Mr. Arthur Matthison's *More than Ever*, played at the Gaiety one afternoon last week, and announced for repetition this week, proves to be an appropriate skit of the most amusing kind. Of its half-dozen *dramatis personæ*, five are murdered and the sixth commits suicide. During their brief stage career they behave themselves so much after the manner of the wicked folk in transpontine drama that it is easy to imagine the piece a serious affair at the Surrey, although at the Gaiety it is understood as an excellent joke. The chief character of *More than Ever* is Kangy, a Man Kangaroo, cleverly, though rather vulgarly played by Mr. Wyatt in imitation of Mr. Conquest's parallel creation in *For Ever*. Sir Crimson Fluid, Signor Arsenico della Morte, and the Lady Aqua Toffana are criminals of a more familiar order, and their extravagant villanies are illustrated with amusing earnestness by Messrs. Monkhouse and Henley and Miss Bella Howard. The trifle was a decided hit, and is sure to be received with loud merriment whenever it is played.

Mr. Burnand's very skilful adaptation, *Betsy*—a model piece of work of its kind—has been revived at the Criterion with excellent results. Many of the members of the original cast, including Messrs. Hill, Maltby, Lytton Sothern, and Standing re-appear, the part of Betsy, however, being assigned to Miss Bromley, instead of Miss Lottie Venne, with some gain of refinement but considerable loss of humour.

The last performances of *Patience* are now announced at the Savoy, and Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's new opera may be very shortly expected.

Pluck at Drury-lane has now passed its eightieth night and enjoys undiminished popularity. No change has taken place at the Haymarket, Lyceum, and the Adelphi. *The Romany Rye* will be withdrawn from the Princess's at the end of this week, to make room for the new play of *The Silver King*. The last week is announced of *Fun on the Bristol* at the Olympic. The Vaudeville, Comedy Theatre, and Alhambra have made no alteration in their respective programmes. The Savoy, Avenue, Surrey, Astley's, and Standard have continued to prolong the run of their respective attractions.

A children's pantomime will be played at the Avenue Theatre next Christmass during a series of morning performances at cheap prices. The subject of the pantomime chosen for the small performers is *Dick Whittington*. One of the scenes is to be a representation of the Children's Fancy Dress Ball at the Mansion House, and the whole piece is to be very elaborately mounted.

The Novelty Theatre is to open next month with *Melita*, a comic opera, and *A Double and a Rub*, a comedietta, by Mr. J. Baker Hopkins.

The *Era* understands that Miss Kate Santley had arranged to travel to the north by that Pullman car the burning of which caused such a painful sensation last week, but was fortunately detained in London by business until the following morning.

THE FLOODED VALLEY OF THE THAMES.

A few days ago the whole country between Staines and Windsor Bridge was a waste of waters. But for the tops of the hedges marking the grey expanse into squares, and the heads of pollard willows making small islands everywhere, and the golden-leaved beech trees standing with their feet in the flood, a tolerably imaginative traveller might have fancied himself at Windermere. In the old town of Windsor, too, punts were plying about the streets, and the artisans of the Royal borough were conveyed to their work much as a Venetian lady is taken to a ball. The floods are rapidly subsiding now; so fast, indeed, as to draw from the inhabitants of the flooded country expressions of wonder at their disappearance. Even yet, however, the distance between Staines and Windsor is covered by a chain of lakes, woven together by long, sinuous pools, over which travels an occasional canoe. At Datchet the trains of the South Western Railway plash through some inches of water. The pleasant village of Runnymede is surrounded by silvery streams, and anywhere between Wraysbury and Windsor Mr. Leader might make studies for a companion picture to that which he entitled, "At evening there shall be light." A flooded country is usually dismal and distressing. It would be difficult to imagine Holland looking very picturesque when one of its dykes has given way. It must nevertheless be confessed in regard to the floods in the Thames valley that they add a new beauty to the landscape. Probably the fields round Eton and Windsor never looked more interesting than they did yesterday, when the sun shone as brightly as on a day in June. It was difficult to remember that all this grey breadth of water crisply rippling under a light breeze, meant loss of time and money to the famers, and trouble and discomfort, and possible ague, to every one whose habitation is in the fields. The first sight of the floods is to be caught just beyond the railway station at Staines. The fields near the line are only streaked with water between the furrows; but half a mile away, looking towards the Thames, a broad lake gleams in the sunlight, intersected by belts of trees. Through Wraysbury and Datchet, and to beyond where the arches of the Great Western Railway stride over the fields, there are floods everywhere; but there is not on that account any monotony in the landscape. Here and there large spaces are left exposed where the waters have subsided, and after the bath it has had the country is very sweet and green. Near Wraysbury, on one side of the line, there is a small farmhouse, with a barn and a stack or two, standing as if on an island, and on the other a bed of osiers so deeply submerged that only the tops of the taller bushes are visible, swaying like reeds in a pool.

Much of the ground in the valley of the Lower Thames is of such a character that only the artificial drainage can relieve it of an inundation. Many of the fields dip towards the centre, and form natural reservoirs. Thus, there is one field where the turnips had just been pulled and left by the side of the furrows: it is now entirely covered with water, except in the close neighbourhood of the hedges, and all round the margin of the flood the turnips are left half exposed, like boulders round which the tide is playing. In one field just the tops of the tall grass are visible, with here and there a few feet of sodden ground. In another an acre of cabbages has assumed something of the appearance of a great patch of water-lilies. Wherever the floods seem to be most rapidly retiring, there gather the crows. There are crows in legions in the fields between Wraysbury and Eton. They do not confine themselves to the ground from which the flood has receded, but pick their way through the shallow water as unconcernedly as if they were herons or storks. They are at present almost the only inhabitants of the fields. Such cattle as are still at large have a slushy and unsatisfactory time of it; and as for the farmers and their men, it would be utterly useless for them to venture out of doors. Where the water does not lie in sheets it lies in broad ribands, so that, as a countryman observed, "the land is like streaky bacon, a row of fat and a row of lean."

The floods are deepest towards Eton and Windsor. Where the Datchet road runs from the bridge by the side of the Home Park it is like a stone pier shooting out into the sea. The course of the Thames is discernible only by the rapidity of the current. The Fellows' Eyot is an eyot no longer, no soil being visible, but only the upper portions of the trees. One of the smaller bridges is merely a stone coping in the middle of a stream. At one point a pump adds a touch of satire to the scene by holding up its head in the midst of a couple of acres of water. A piece of land from which the overflow has subsided is almost covered with logs of wood brought down by the Thames, and here and there great trees have been torn up by the roots and cast lengthwise into the flood. In the Home Park the waters still extend to within a short distance of the Castle-hill, and the fields beyond Eton College are more than half submerged. Much the worst part of the flood, however, is past. The people of Windsor now regard it rather with interest than dismay. Punts are no longer necessary in the streets, and where a few days ago the water was four feet high, its recent presence is only attested by a puddle. Past Windsor Bridge the Thames rushes with quite astonishing velocity, carrying off such a quantity of water that it is scarcely necessary to suppose, as do some of the inhabitants of Windsor, that the flood is subsiding so rapidly because "something has broken lower down."—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

It is unfortunately true, says the *Athenæum*, that the Hamilton collection of manuscripts has left England. But the German papers are wrong in two particulars. The collection has been sold in its entirety to the Prussian Government by Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson and Hodge, and the price paid is not that mentioned in the Berlin journals.

Mrs. Ebsworth is working hard at the "Roxburghe Ballads." Part xi. will be issued before the end of the year, and parts xii. and xiii. (the "Monmouth Group") are promised for the spring or early summer.

The *Academy* says the Clarendon Press will publish shortly "The Gospel of St. Mark in Gothic," according to the translation made by Wulfila in the fourth century, edited by Prof. Skeat. This work is intended to serve as a Gothic primer, and to introduce the beginner to fuller and more complete works on the subject. The Introduction gives all necessary information concerning the MS., the author, and the sources of the alphabet, with some account of the pronunciation, phonology, and grammar. The glossary not only explains all the words occurring in St. Mark's Gospel, but is extended to all the more important words of the language, especially such as are most required by the student of English etymology, for whom some knowledge of Gothic is indispensable.

The *Academy* understands that Mr. Browning has finished enough fresh minor poems to form a thin volume like the two last that he has published, but it is probable that he will keep them back till he has completed a longer poem to come out with them.

Mr. William Sawyer, the editor of *Funny Folks*, died on Wednesday night of typhoid fever. Mr. Sawyer was born at Brighton in 1828, and at an early age devoted himself to journalism and other literature. The works by which he is chiefly known are "Ten Miles from Town" (1867) and the "Legend of Phyllis" (1872). He also contributed to periodicals a number of works of fiction, some 25 novels and romances, and many articles, criticisms, etc. A drama, founded on a romance of his own, "Jessie Ashton," was brought out at the Surrey Theatre as the Easter novelty in 1863.

Prof. Newton informs a contemporary that he "has not relinquished his intention of continuing his edition of Yarrell's 'British Birds.' But for the accident which befell Prof. Newton in June last, a portion would have now been on the point of appearing; and he hopes before long to bring out an account of the British pigeons and game-birds, which will complete the second volume according to his original plan."

The principal astronomical event of next year is a total eclipse of the sun, which takes place on the 6th of May. At some points on the central line the totality will last nearly six minutes; but so forgetful is the eclipse of the convenience of astronomers, says the *Athenæum*, that this line, the whole of which is included in the South Pacific Ocean, only touches land on a small island situated north of the Society and west of the Marquesas group.

Mr. Joseph Thomson will leave England for Zanzibar at the end of the present month, to organise the expedition which the Royal Geographical Society are about to send, under his command, through the hitherto unexplored Masai country to the eastern shores of Victoria Nyanza.

The Dudley Gallery has, so far as its constituency is concerned, vanished, and the Dudley Gallery Art Society has taken its place, and under these new auspices the current exhibition has been opened. The lease of the premises to the former society having terminated, the tenancy has been renewed to the new one, which consists, or is to consist, of a hundred oil-colour painters and a hundred water-colour draughtsmen, each paying four guineas a year, who are severally invited to contribute works to two exhibitions annually, appointed for the same dates as before. It is stated that since 1865, when the Dudley Gallery started into existence, nearly £100,000 has been obtained for pictures there exhibited. We wish the new society good luck, and trust the managers may be able to carry into effect the proposed improvement in lighting the gallery. It is indispensable that the depressing, if not ignominious, entrance to this exhibition should be entirely altered.—*Athenæum.*

Mr. W. B. Richmond has resigned the Oxford Slade Professorship of the Fine Arts.

Mr. A. W. Blomfield has been appointed architect to the cathedral of Salisbury, a post which G. E. Street held for some years.

The clay model of William Tyndale's statue, 10ft. in height, by Mr. J. E. Boehm, will be ready for inspection during the present month. Towards the sum of £2,400 for the preparation and erection of the monument, one half has been guaranteed by 12 gentlemen, and the other £1,200 is promised or in process of collection by committees formed for the purpose.

The Institute of Water Colour Painters is preparing to remove from Pall Mall to Piccadilly, and has consequently decided not to open the usual winter exhibition. A "scratch" collection of works in oil and water by past and present members of the society and others, including some of John Martin's pictures, has been opened in Pall Mall.

It is proposed to buy by public subscription the whole of the remaining drawings of John Leech and present them, in sections, to Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, Nottingham, and other large towns, Manchester having the first group. To secure such works by this means and thus distribute them is surely more laudable than to forestall the small grant from the Treasury to the Print Room, as was lately done with regard to the purchase of the whole of J. Doyle's original drawings for the "H. B. Sketches," to obtain which the department has been crippled. Ten of the Doyles would have been quite enough to show their quality; £50 might have procured these, leaving £950 for the acquisition of desirable works of art.—*Athenæum*

Corpus Christi College, Oxford, has paid Mr. A. W. Hunt, the well-known landscape painter, the compliment of electing him to an honorary fellowship. Mr. Hunt was formerly a Fellow of Corpus. The other honorary fellows of Corpus are Mr. Ruskin, Sir H. S. Maine, Archdeacon Palmer, and Mr. Shadworth Hodgson.

The Royal Academicians (says the *Academy*) have decided to take upon themselves a task that is likely to be of great service in the study of English art. This is the reprint in volumes of all the catalogues of their exhibitions from the foundation of the Royal Academy in 1768 to the present time. Careful indexes will be made, and everything done to render the work useful for reference. No one, perhaps, who has not experienced the trouble of searching through old catalogues to find some particular fact of unknown date can estimate the advantage of such a compilation as this. To the biographer and collector it will be invaluable. It will be published, it is stated, at a price that will merely repay costs.

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CONSERVATIVES AND THE CLOTURE.

The *Times* says that Sir Stafford Northcote's speech in moving, on Monday night, the rejection of the new rule of Procedure, was not wanting in militant spirit. Admitting that a case had been made out for placing some restrictions on debate, the Government, he contended, by rejecting all the effectual safeguards for the rights of minorities proposed from the Opposition side, and by retaining such only as were illusory, had forced the House to consider whether the remedy was not worse than the disease. Sir Stafford Northcote recapitulated the arguments against entrusting the power of closing debates to the voice of a mere party majority, and he intimated that the attitude of the Opposition towards the remaining resolutions would depend upon the issue of the present debate. It is impossible to doubt that this warning is intended to satisfy the growing desire of the Conservative party to assert its position and influence in the State by some show of vigour. Lord Randolph Churchill's plan of aggressive operations is not likely to find favour among practical politicians, but in the spirit of his counsels he is in sympathy with many who have no disposition to throw off the bonds of party loyalty and party discipline. The Opposition as a party are beginning to feel keenly that while their leaders are occupied in preserving a stainless character for Parliamentary respectability, the assertion of Conservative principles seldom comes to any practical result or appeals in a decisive manner to the judgment of the nation. It is not probable that the Government will make any attempt to meet Sir Stafford Northcote with concessions, substantial or shadowy, at the eleventh hour. In Monday's discussions there was no disposition to yield at any point. Lord John Manners's amendment, proposing that the vote on the question of clôture should be taken by ballot, was, of course, rejected by a large majority. Its main object, no doubt, was to draw attention forcibly to the fact that the Ministerial proposal was distasteful to a large proportion of the Liberal party, and was forced upon them by political pressure. This has been courageously denied by Ministers and their supporters; but the remarkable speech of Mr. Peter Taylor was scarcely needed to appraise these conventional denials at their proper value. If members could be relieved from every sort of extraneous pressure and could vote on this question with entire freedom, no one can doubt that the power of closing debates by a bare majority would be refused to this or any other Administration. Even Ministerialists must acknowledge the truth of this if they put to themselves the question suggested by Mr. Taylor, and ask themselves how many of those now sitting on the Liberal benches would have voted for the resolution as it stands if it had been proposed by Lord Beaconfield's Government. Few, indeed, on a scrutiny of their "historical conscience" could give Sir Andrew Fairbairn's confident answer to such a question. But vote by ballot in the House of Commons would be an innovation more formidable and far-reaching than even the introduction of the clôture itself. While it is more than doubtful whether it would secure the House the complete freedom from pressure which is in the intent of Lord John Manners's proposal, the precedent would be applied to other departments of Parliamentary business, in which the responsibility of members to the country requires the publicity of votes. But the Government refused on Monday night to yield upon other proposals of a less startling character. The Speaker, during an incidental discussion, stated that according to his own construction of the resolution it would be his duty "to ascertain so far as was possible the evident sense of the House at large." Mr. Gladstone was urged to assent to the amendment of the resolution by the incorporation of the Speaker's words, but after some hesitation he declined to comply. It is obvious that while the Speaker's interpretation of the rule is consistent with the Prime Minister's original exposition of its terms, it is at variance with the language used by Lord Hartington, Mr. Bright, Mr. Chamberlain, and Sir William Harcourt. In his speech in reply to Sir Stafford Northcote, at the close of Monday night's debate, the Home Secretary repeated his declaration that the power of closing debates, and the responsibility for the exercise of that power, belong exclusively to the majority; that, in fact, "the majority *is* the House." It is impossible to reconcile this doctrine with the Speaker's statement of what he conceives to be his duty. The power and the responsibility belong, according to the Speaker, to "the House at large," of which the "evident sense" is to be sought. Though it is too probable that Sir William Harcourt's view, backed by the strict letter of the resolution, will ultimately prevail, the Speaker's construction of the rule may relieve the Opposition from immediate fears.

THE COMING DEBATE ON EGYPTIAN POLICY.

Sir Stafford Northcote has undertaken a delicate and difficult duty, from the discharge of which a Statesman less scrupulous and patriotic might easily be tempted rather to snatch a Party advantage than to seek the advancement of the national interests. In the House of Commons on Monday evening he gave notice that, on as early a day as he can claim, he will call attention to the present employment of a portion of her Majesty's forces in Egypt, and will move that the House of Commons is entitled to a fuller explanation of the nature, the proposed duration, and the estimated cost of the occupation than it has yet received. The Motion, however strictly we may construe its terms, is still one of censure. It does not, it is true, imply any condemnation of the action of Government in the past, or any distrust of their aims and efforts for the future. Ministers are blamed, not for what they have done or left undone, but for taking Parliament too little into their confidence. It is not their conduct of affairs that is directly challenged, but their relations with the House of Commons. The reproach is one of which the Cabinet is bound to show itself sensitive. No weapon in the armoury of invective with which its members when in Opposition attacked the Administration of Lord Beaconsfield was used with less reserve, or to better purpose, than the cry that the measures they decried were taken without the privity or sanction of Parliament. In any case, a Government would be desirous to meet at the earliest possible time a motion of the kind, put on the paper by the responsible leader of the Opposition. Mr. Gladstone has already challenged Sir Stafford Northcote to formulate any suggestion of blame he and his party may be disposed to entertain. We cannot doubt, then, that he will reply favourably to the question of which the Conservative leader has given notice, and that he will afford an early day for the discussion of the subject. Thus the autumn Session will not close without a discussion, if not of the Egyptian policy of the Government, at any rate of a matter closely related thereto. In this lies the whole difficulty of the situation. There can, we suppose, be no room for difference of opinion as to the right of the House of Commons to be informed, at the earliest moment when the information can be given without damage to our diplomacy, of the definite proposals of the Government with reference to the settlement of Egypt. As guardian of the public purse, the House is peculiarly entitled to full knowledge as to the cost which has been or which is to be incurred. The most moderate of partisans will think it but fair that, as the Ministerial Party make no very modest use of their military successes, a moral corrective should be simultaneously applied by a candid disclosure of the amount of the bill: and certainly there is good ground for believing that the estimates hitherto put forward have not been framed in the most strictly ingenuous spirit. We cannot say whether a frank avowal of the relations of the Cabinet of St. James's with the European Chancelleries would at this moment help or thwart our diplomacy. But if Government, on their own responsibility, declare that it would, we must accept the assertion as for the time conclusive. The moment certainly would seem to be one when disclosures would be peculiarly risky. The question of the French Control has, we learn, reached the critical stage, and probably our relations with the German Governments, if they are to prove effective for our ends, must be of the most confidential character. Things cannot be arranged only in and for Egypt; wider considerations of European enmities and friendship come in to perplex the issues and diversify political combinations. An imperfect explanation would mislead the House of Commons; a complete disclosure would destroy the confidence which Foreign Cabinets repose in ours, and which alone makes negotiation possible. We say nothing of the harm which would result if our Ministers had prematurely to avow their desires and ultimately to admit that in this or that essential point they were checkmated. There are unquestionably circumstances under which the most honest of Cabinets may well refuse to lift the veil, and we do not the less insist on this truth with reference to the present Administration because it was one which, in their crusade against Lord Beaconsfield and his works, they deliberately ignored.—*Standard.*

SOCIALISM.

The *Daily News* traces the growth of that socialism which is developing in a variety of ways in Europe to the development of industry. This, it says, has improved incalculably the condition of the working classes:—

Any one who will compare wages now with those paid a quarter of a century ago will see this, and he will be still more convinced of it if he runs over in his mind all that has been done by the Legislature of European countries for the benefit of the working classes—the efforts made to give to the very humblest a good elementary education, to provide sanitary dwellings for the poor, to shorten the hours of labour, to protect the workmen from avoidable accidents, to save women and children from excessive toil. And again it is to be seen in the increased influence which the working classes are able to exercise over legislation. But the improvement in the workman's position has but awakened him to a sense of the hardness of his lot. Formerly he accepted his position as a dispensation of Providence. He knew that his father and his father's father had occupied a similar position, and he believed that it was a part of the providential plan that some should work while some should play. But he has lost his old beliefs in this respect, and he has come to think that his condition is not fixed by decree of Heaven, but is the result of unequal and unjust human arrangements. Nowadays one master employs vast numbers of men, the great majority of whom he does not know even by sight, and between whom and himself there are interposed several intermediary agents. The workpeople, having no personal acquaintance with their employer, have none of the old feelings of respect and attachment. On the contrary, they compare their own ill-furnished homes, their scanty, hard, sorry clothing, with the mansion, the carriages, the parks and gardens of their employer, and they infer that he is rolling in luxury at their expense. The industrial revolution which has substituted manufacture on a great scale for manufacture on a small scale is thus generating a feeling of envy and hostility between workpeople and their employers.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

BALMORAL CASTLE, MONDAY

Yesterday the Queen was present at Divine service at the parish church of Crathie. The Dowager Marchioness of Ely and Captain Bigge were in attendance. The Rev. Dr. Lees officiated. The Earl of Northbrook and Dr. Lees had the honour of dining with her Majesty.

The Queen has been pleased to approve of the elevation to the peerage of Sir F. Beauchamp Seymour, G.C.B., by the title of Baron Alcester, of Alcester, in the county of Warwick; and of Sir Garnet Wolseley, G.C.B., by the title of Baron Wolseley of Cairo, and of Wolseley, in the county of Stafford.

The *Daily News* is informed that there is not the slightest foundation for the rumour circulated last week to the effect that it is the intention of the Archbishop of Canterbury to resign the Primacy. His Grace is making satisfactory progress, and intends shortly to visit the Continent, in the hope that the journey will effect a complete restoration to health.

Prince Hassan, brother of the Khedive of Egypt, arrived at Urie, Stonehaven, on Monday, on a short visit to Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Baird, of Urie.

The Duke and Duchess of Westminster are expected to leave Grosvenor House for Eaton Hall at the end of the week.

The Countess of Derby has arrived at St. James's-square from a short visit to Paris.

Lord and Lady Herries will receive a party at Everingham, Yorkshire, this week.

Lord and Lady Fitzgerald and family have arrived at 98, Portland-place, from Kilmarnock, county Dublin.

Lord and Lady Colin Campbell intend joining the Duke and Duchess of Argyll and family at Cannes next month.

Lord and Lady Brooke have left town for Easton Lodge, Dunmow.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

EGYPT AND ARABI.

Sir S. NORTHCOTE gave notice that he will call attention, on the earliest day he can obtain from the Government, to the present employment of a portion of her Majesty's forces in Egypt, and will move that the House is entitled to a fuller explanation of the nature, proposed duration, and cost of such employment than it has hitherto received.

In answer to a question from Mr. Bourke, Sir C. Dilke was understood to say that the Egypitan Government was alone responsible for the charges on which Arabi Pacha is being tried. Mr. Gladstone, also in answer to Mr. Bourke, said that when the British Cavalry entered Cairo, Arabi had not been invited to surrender to the English, but the Prefect of Police had been ordered to bring him in. As long as warlike operations were going on, it was for the sake of humanity and to avoid reprisals that the rights of belligerents should be allowed to Arabi's soldiers, and that when taken captive they should be treated as prisoners of war; but when the war was over the municipal rights of the civil government of the country revived, and those who had not been amnestied would be liable to be tried by the civil power.

THE CLÔTURE.

The House then proceeded with the Adjourned Debate on the clôture, and Lord J. MANNERS moved an amendment requiring that the votes in the division for applying the clôture shall be taken by ballot. This he did, he said, with the view of protecting gentlemen opposite from the pressure of the caucus, under which they had already suffered.

Mr. GLADSTONE, in opposing the amendment, indulged in some sarcastic comments on the inconsistency of such a proposal from the Conservatives, and once more ridiculed the apprehensions of the Opposition. Mr. Lowther spoke strongly in favour of the amendment, and Mr. Chamberlain, in replying to him, defended the action of the caucus, and maintained that it exercised no pressure which justified such a change in the mode of procedure. Mr. Schreiber remarked that this was the last offer of compromise and conciliation, and if it were rejected the controversy must be waged with more bitterness, and he warned those who might put the clôture into operation hereafter that they might as well give up the business of oratory, for they would not be allowed a hearing. Mr. C. Bentinck mentioned several instances of members who had been reproved by their local caucus, and Sir G. Campbell, who had been mentioned among others, appealed to the House amid much laughter whether he had been silenced. Mr. P. A. Taylor said that though he regarded the clôture with abhorrence, it would be made more objectionable if enforced by the ballot. Admitting that the constituencies seemed at present to be in favour of the clôture, he warned his Radical friends that there would be a reaction as soon as it was perceived that the change now proposed in the alleged interests of Radical legislation totally sacrificed freedom of debate and future progress. Mr. Ashmead Bartlett supported the amendment, while Mr. Brand and Sir A. Fairbairn spoke against it, and on a division it was negatived by 139 to 55.

Several of the subsequent amendments were ruled out of order, among them one relating to the "evident sense of the House." The Speaker being invited thereupon to give his interpretation of the words, said he believed it would be the duty of the Chair to ascertain as far as it could "the evident sense of the House at large." Sir S. NORTHCOTE at once asked whether the Government would allow these words to be placed in the Resolution, and Mr. Gladstone at first declined to speak positively; but, after a few minutes' consideration, said he did not think it desirable or necessary. In answer to Mr. Gibson, the Speaker said he could not direct his interpretation to be entered on the Votes unless a special motion were made to that effect. A motion for adjournment was made in order to discuss the point, but in the end it was withdrawn; and after this a long discussion followed on a motion by Mr. A. Balfour that the Rule shall not apply to the discussion of the succeeding Resolutions. Mr. Gladstone opposed it, on the ground that to accept it would be to admit that the clôture would prevent free and full discussion, and in the end the amendment was negatived by 97 to 52. There being no other amendments, the Speaker put the Resolution as the main question, and

Sir S. NORTHCOTE, pursuant to notice, moved the negative to it, remarking at the outset that if he were beaten this would be the last occasion of a debate carried on under the old conditions of freedom of speech, which had raised the House to its present predominant position in the State. The House, he believed, was taking a first step in the direction of sacrificing the sources of its strength, and though he admitted the necessity for some action, this remedy was worse than the disease. Discussing the resolution in its present form, he pointed out that the provisions for the protection of small minorities were illusory, and the initiative of the Chair would be no protection, as it was impossible for the Speaker in the long run to stand up against the expressed opinion of the majority. Comparing the speeches made from the Treasury Bench, he concluded that the object was to stop the discussion of any subject which was disagreeable to the Government and the majority. The difficulty was to distinguish between obstruction and opposition, and he asked Mr. Labouchere whether he would himself be content with a "fair half hour" if he had to argue the case of the county franchise in face of a Conservative majority. It was most inauspicious that the Resolution should be brought forward as a party measure, in order to forward party objects, and the House, he predicted, would be obliged to go further in the same direction. With regard to the other resolutions, he said that the attitude of the Opposition in regard to them must be qualified by what was done with this Resolution.

Sir W. HARCOURT denied emphatically that the Resolution was introduced for party purposes, to give a triumph to either party, or to silence the Conservative Opposition. The real object was to devise some method of economizing the time of the House, and to put a stop to the various modes, which he described, of wasting time and preventing the progress of business. The power of regulating the time of the House must rest with the majority, which was, in fact, the House; and as to freedom of debate—which the Liberals, who had profited so much by it, were not likely to sacrifice—the Opposition were not struggling for that, but for the power of vetoing business by delay. The Government were acting on a conviction that a remedy like this was indispensable, and he put to the Opposition the responsibility they would incur in rejecting this weapon if a strong minority should come into the House determined to paralyze all action.

Lord FOLKESTONE spoke against the Resolution, and the debate was adjourned on the motion of Lord Lymington.

The House adjourned at five minutes past twelve o'clock.

MR. BRADLAUGH AND THE HOUSE.—Mr. Bradlaugh, M.P., writing to a correspondent, says that the Speaker has ruled that the Order of March 6 is in force this session, and it would be a breach of order for any two members to accompany him to the table. If he can get a decision in the case "Gurney *v.* Bradlaugh," or "Bradlaugh *v.* Erskine" this month, he will go at once to the table, even if unaccompanied by introducers, and take his seat. If the House expels him for the fourth time he will seek re-election at Northampton, and then challenge the House; if rejected, the decision will rest with the nation.

TERRIBLE COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

A very serious colliery explosion occurred on Tuesday morning at the Parkhouse pit, belonging to the Claycross Company, about five miles from Chesterfield. The pit employs a large number of men, and, although it was an off-day, about one hundred men entered the workings, intending to labour on stock in the bends. About forty men came up the shaft at ten o'clock, and immediately a terrific explosion took place in the Parkhouse working. The heading of the shaft was blown high above the pit bank, and the mouth of the pit was wrecked. Mr. Croudacre, certificated manager, and Mr. George Dunn, the underground manager, were at once informed of the explosion. Finding it impossible to get into the pit by the Parkhouse Shaft, they hurried at once to No. 8 Shaft, which is about a mile away, and used for lowering men into the same pit. An exploring party was immediately organised, and the managers and several others went down by the shaft. By this time news of the explosion had spread, and there was a scene of great excitement on the bank, men, women, and children pressing forward in their anxiety to ascertain whether their relatives were injured. The crowd was kept back by the police, and every effort made to liberate the men. One or two found near the bottom of No. 8 Shaft were quickly brought up and taken to the hospital, but these seemed to be rather injured by the shock of explosion than seriously burnt. It is feared, however, that in the Hot Pit the loss of life has been very great.

A later message says:—The explosion of gas occurred at the No. 2 Sparkhouse Pit, Danesmore Colliery. The chair was blown from the bottom of the shaft, out through the mouth, into the head-gear. About forty men had been drawn up a little before the explosion, and about forty were left in the pit. Of these the majority are, it is supposed, killed. Buildings five miles off were shaken by the force of the explosion. An exploring party was formed, which hastened to a mile distant, and entered the pit. Until the exploring party has got further in the workings, it is impossible to say what is the extent of the explosion or the loss of life. There is a scene of fearful excitement at the pit bank, the relatives and friends of the miners having hurried thither as soon as the intelligence of the explosion became known.

POLITICAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

We understand that the Prime Minister will place the earliest possible day at Sir Stafford Northcote's disposal for the discussion of his motion with respect to Egypt, of which notice was given last night.

With respect to a telegram from Paris published in the evening papers on Monday to the effect that "all the European Powers, save France, have agreed to accept the establishment of a British control of Egypt, provided that some sort of European surveillance can be established," we have reason to believe that, with the exception of France, no communication on the subject of the Control has been made on behalf of England to any of the European Powers.

At the desire of the Conservative authorities, the division on Sir Stafford Northcote's amendment will not take place before Thursday. A very arduous task is thus cast upon the Whips of the party, who have to provide relays of members to keep the talk flowing.

Whilst the general opinion in the House is not at present able to contemplate any extension of the series of speech-making beyond Thursday, it is by no means impossible that a further adjournment may be accomplished, and the division put off till Friday. A call for volunteers in the Conservative ranks has been very loyally responded to. At midnight (Monday) Mr. Winn had a list of 41 members, who have undertaken to make speeches of varying length.

Mr. Lyon Playfair has been in attendance at the House of Commons since the autumn session commenced, but for obvious reasons he has taken no part in any of the divisions.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

We believe that upwards of seventy members, on both sides of the House, have intimated their desire to speak on the Clôture Resolution.

It is anticipated that the supporters of the Government will be given clearly to understand that the vote on the Clôture Resolution will be treated as a question of confidence in the Government.

We believe that considerable opposition will be offered to the Second of the new Rules, which proposes to suspend the right of moving the adjournment, except by leave of the House.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

Although, in deference to the wish of the Duke of Connaught, there was not, in one sense of the word, a public reception of his Royal Highness on his arrival in London on Monday evening, yet a large concourse of people, outside the Charing-cross Station of the South-Eastern Railway and on the platforms open to the public within the station, gathered long before the special train in which the Duke and the Duchess of Connaught travelled to town was due. The platform at which the mail trains draw up was kept clear by an extra force of police for members of the Royal Family and personages holding Court and military appointments who came to receive the Duke of Connaught. Among those who had come before the arrival of the Royal train were the Duke of Cambridge, attended by Colonel Bateson, one of his aides-de-camp; the Duke of Westminster, Master of the Horse; Major-General Du Plat, Equerry to the Queen; Major-General Higginson, C.B., Commanding the Home District; Colonel the Hon. W.J. Colville, Lord and Lady Edward Clinton, the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Egerton Colonel G. A. Maude, C.B., and Lieutenant-Colonel Moncrieff, Scots Guards. Sir Edward Watkin, M.P., chairman of the South-Eastern Railway Company, and Mr. John Shaw, the secretary, were present early to see that everything possible had been done to insure the comfort of the Duke and of those who came to meet him. For the satisfactory character of these arrangements a word is due in recognition of the forethought shown by Mr. Grimsteed, the stationmaster, whose experience of Royal receptions suggests the necessary precautions. The special train, which left Dover in charge of Mr. Myles Fenton, the general manager, at 3.18 p.m., stopped at Ashford and took up the Duke of Edinburgh, who was accompanied by Captain L'Estrange, R.N., commander of the *Lively*, and Lord and Lady Hothfield. Tunbridge was passed at 4.20, and a few minutes after 5 Charing-cross was reached. The train had started earlier and arrived sooner than was expected, and it was only after the Duke of Connaught was on the platform, shaking hands with the Duke of Cambridge and the many officers present, that the Duke of Albany arrived. Almost at the same time the Duke of Teck and the Princess Mary, Duchess of Teck, drove up. Baron von Pawel-Rammingen was also present. Mr. Childers, owing to this change in the time of departure, reached the station too late to offer his congratulations. A company of the 16th Middlesex (Royal Irish) Rifle Volunteers, of which corps the Duke of Connaught is honorary colonel, formed a guard of honour under the command of Captain Lloyd, Colonel Ward accompanying them. The band of the regiment was present, and as his Royal Highness alighted on the platform a Royal salute was given. After spending a few minutes in conversation with his relatives, his Royal Highness and the Duchess of Connaught entered a close carriage and were driven to Buckingham Palace, the cheering of those on the platform being taken up very heartily by those beyond the barriers and outside the station.

LORD DUFFERIN'S MISSION.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Daily News* telegraphed on Monday:—

I have information on undoubted authority of some of the principal proposals which Lord Dufferin will consider, supposing him to be charged to report on the constitution of the Control and the Debt Boards. The proposals, I am assured, were submitted some weeks ago to Lord Granville by the chief diplomatic and financial representatives of England in Egypt. Several of the schemes generally agree in recommending a reduction in the staffs of the Railway, Daira, and Domains Boards, and in investing the over-officered Treasury and Public Debt Board with additional duties. An English member of the Treasury is understood to have expressed himself strongly to this effect. As regards the Daira and Domains, it is suggested that Frenchmen or Englishmen should be retained in either, with native assistants; also that a single qualified engineer should replace the present Railway Board of three; next, a general agreement that the Dual Control is inconvenient. The impression is, so far as I am able to gather, that France would yield the point because she would still hold a place in the committee on international questions, such as the tariff, the taxes, and the postal system because she would still retain a representative on the Debt Board, and because, as a matter of fact, the Control is not necessary as a guarantee for the payment of liabilities, in which France is rather more interested than in the political question. The English representatives would say that the past success of the Dual system is owing less to the nature of the institution than to the personal character of M. de Blignières. Again, the proposals generally agree that the English Controller, whether under that or some other name, should become the President of the General Financial Board, with a casting vote. One proposal is that the President, besides his purely financial functions, should exercise others, advising the Government and watching the general administration, for which purpose a seat in the Cabinet would be necessary. It is recommended that the appointment should be for five years. Another proposal is that the official, even in the Council, should confine himself to finance alone. One of the schemes lays great stress on the necessity of retaining the essentials of the Control as a means of protecting the native Government against the boards concerned solely in collecting taxes. The subject is exciting the keenest interest in the native community.

Lord Dufferin's arrival is awaited with the greatest eagerness and curiosity here.

The following is the arrangement for the form of procedure to be adopted in the cases tried before the special Commission instituted at Cairo by a decree of His Highness the Khedive, dated the 28th of September, 1882:—

"Article 1. As soon as the preliminary investigation shall have resulted in the accusation of one or more persons, notice shall be given them by the President of the Commission, informing them that their case will be sent before a Court-Martial.

"Article 2. Every accused has the right to choose as his legal adviser a native or foreign lawyer, residing in Egypt at the time when the Court-Martial commences. In the latter case, and before all communication with the accused, the advocate must be approved by the Egyptian Government. Each advocate may have the assistance of a second advocate, who shall not also address the Court.

"Article 3. All the records of the proceedings of the preliminary inquiry shall be open to the inspection of the advocates in the offices of the Commission.

"Article 4. The advocates shall have the right to produce and to cause them to be heard on all questions relating to the case in the preliminary investigation such witnesses as they deem necessary, and this in their presence and in that of the accused, and whether or not the said witnesses have been already heard or not.

Article 5. The prosecution and the defence may produce as valid evidence received before the Commission depositions recorded abroad before competent authorities.

"Article 6. The advocates are obliged to use all reasonable diligence in the proceedings, and if their desire to uselessly prolong them be manifest, the President of the Commission may declare the investigation at an end.

"Article 7. The proceedings of the defence shall form an integral part of the preliminary inquiry, which shall be definitely closed either by the agreement of both sides or by order of the President, as mentioned in the preceding article.

"Article 8. The Court-martial may assemble seven days after the termination of the preliminary inquiry, and no further delay shall be sought for on any pretext. The court has the right to grant fresh delay if urgent necessity arises.

"Article 9. No witness shall appear before the Court-martial, either for the prosecution or the defence, or by order of the Court.

"Article 10. The eighth day after the preliminary inquiry has terminated the proceedings of the Court-martial may be opened. The President shall order that the indictment, examination, and all documents produced in the case shall be read. This completed the President shall invite the accused or their counsel to address the Court. After the defence the delegate of the preliminary inquiry may answer if he desires it, and, in this case, the accused or their counsel shall have a right to the last word. Before the termination of the proceedings both parties may deposit written statements of their case.

"Article 11. The judgment of the Court shall be pronounced in open Court.

"Article 12. The defence shall be free, but the President may stop any counsel introducing irrelevant matter or using insulting or offensive expressions against the constituted authorities of the country.

"Agreed at Cairo on the 21st day of October, 1882.

"A. M. BROADLEY, Lincoln's-inn, London, Barrister-at-law.

"MARK FRANCIS NAPIER, Inner Temple, London, Barrister-at-law.

"O. BORELLI, for the Egyptian Government.

"Certified a true copy,—O. BORELLI."

REPORTED DEFEAT OF THE BOERS.

The Durban correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Monday:—

A report has just been received from Newcastle so circumstantial that I fear it is true. Natives from the Transvaal report two engagements between the Boers and Mapoch, resulting in the defeat of the Boers with great loss. The natives state that Mapoch sent a decoy party, who retreated after skirmishing, drawing on the Boers in pursuit through a neck, where the Caffres fell upon and defeated them with a loss of 300 men. The subsequent engagement occurred in the open, when the Boers were again defeated with loss, having to retire to the laager. The Boers, it is said, are divided among themselves. The Southern commander refuses to go to the help of the Northern Boers, saying that he will remain for the present in his camp on the Vaal River. The Transvaal Caffres are jubilant, saying that they will pay no taxes to any one but Shepstone.

I send the news as telegraphed, but I shall not be surprised if it prove exaggerated. Mr. Scanlen's speech at Aliwal, referring to the Basuto question, repudiated any idea of abandoning the territory. He hoped that by steering a middle course, they might avoid war. If all other resources of civilization failed, the Government would not shrink from war in full confidence that the country would support them. Mr. Sauer, Seeretary for Native Affairs, spoke in a similar strain.

LONDON IMPROVEMENTS.

London is now undergoing or is about to undergo some of the greatest improvements which have been undertaken since the embankment of the Thames. The Metropolitan Board of Works is slowly proceeding with the acquisition of land and buildings for the two new streets it is empowered to cut through the dense maze of Soho; and the Act of 1877 requires that these fine thoroughfares, which prolong Piccadilly to New Oxford-street, and connect Tottenham Court-road with Charing-cross, shall be completed within three years of the present time. A similar limitation of time is attached to the power to widen Gray's-inn-road; and the Board, in anticipation of the speedy completion of this necessary work, has resolved to ask for Parliamentary authority to drive a broad street through the populous and busy labyrinth of Clerkenwell from Holborn Town Hall to the Angel at Islington. In the meantime the reconstructions which are to accompany the completion of the Inner Circle Railway will be proceeding. The line itself is already in course of excavation under Cannon-street, and the large thoroughfare which may be briefly described as equivalent to the continuation of that street to Tower Hill will be made together with the railway. At the Tower itself one of Mr. Lefevre's contemplated improvements is already in progress. The huge storehouses which block the view of the great building from the river are to be removed, and the inner wall of the Tower and the Lantern Tower will be rebuilt upon their site. The Armoury is also to be taken down, the armour it contains being removed to the upper floor of the Tower. The whole circle of the Tower of London will then again appear, and Mr. Lefevre will thus give us what he describes, in his interesting article on "Public Works in London" in the current number of the *Nineteenth Century*, as "an exact and authentic presentment of the old fortress as it stood in olden times." At the other end of London the improvement at Hyde Park is being carried out in pursuance of the scheme suggested some years since by Mr. Mitford, the Secretary to the Office of Works, and adopted by the present First Commissioner. The key to this improvement is the removal of the Wellington Arch, which is to be re-erected, without the hideous figure of the Great Duke, over a new entrance to Constitution-hill and the Green Park. The new boundary of the Green Park will run in a curve from a point opposite Hamilton-place to a point opposite Halkin-street; the entrance to the Green Park will be about half-way between the two; and the land cut off from the park will be formed into an open place, with wide roads and plantations. This improvement will be completed before the next London season begins, and will remove the serious danger which has long been caused by the block and confusion at this great centre of traffic.

Some further improvements which are either in speedy prospect or are already determined upon arise out of the completion of the new Law Courts. Now that the hoarding which so needlessly obscures the front of Mr. Street's great building is being removed, the public will soon enter into possession of a new and very striking addition to the architectural features of London. The removal of the Courts of Law from the mean buildings attached to Westminster Hall to the new Courts will at once bring a great addition to the traffic of the Strand. The City Corporation has made some preparation for the increased locomotion by widening the end of Fleet-street from the corner of Chancery-lane to Temple Bar. This change will do much to relieve the existing pressure, but it is a mere small beginning. The chief alterations needed are in the thoroughfares to the north and west of the new building. There must be some opening from Lincoln's-inn-fields to Holborn, besides the narrow and tortuous road by Little Queen-street. There should be a street from Carey-street to the Strand along the western side of the Law Courts; and the eastern side of Lincoln's-inn-fields should have a wide opening into Holborn, which should be continued across that great street to Bedford-row. Westward there must be a widening of the Strand at the narrow part out of which Norfolk-street runs though whether the whole block between Holywell-street and the Strand can be swept away depends in some degree on the possibility of removing the church of St. Mary-le-Strand, or of widening the roadway on its north side. There are differences of level which perhaps make the opening of the Embankment end of Essex-street difficult, yet an easy approach to the Embankment by that route would probably do as much to relieve the Strand as some more costly schemes. Whatever is done in these matters, it is quite certain that the removal of the law business of the nation from Westminster to the immediate neighbourhood of the Temple and Lincoln's-inn will make it imperative on the Metropolitan Board or the coming London municipality to reconstruct that part of the metropolis. It will be impossible to leave Clare-market, and Wych-street, and Holywell-street, and the narrow gully of the Strand, and the two Turnstiles through which foot passengers filter into Lincoln's-inn-fields, to block the way to what will now become one of the great centres of London business.—*Daily News.*

THE RECEPTION OF THE INDIAN CONTINGENT AT BOMBAY.

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* telegraphs a long account of the entertainment given to the returning troops of the Indian Contingent at Bombay on the 28th of October. He says:—The day was kept as a general holiday, and the whole of Bombay was *en fête*. The various detachments—consisting of 1,480 native and 200 European troops, which had been enabled to accept the proffered hospitality of the city—were formed up near the band stand in the afternoon, and thence, headed by the bands of the Lancaster Regiment and the Bombay volunteers, made a triumphant march amid gala decorations and enthusiastic ovations to the Oval, where the public entertainment was to take place. The troops comprised detachments from the 13th Bengal Lancers, 2nd and 6th Bengal Cavalry, the Seaforth Highlanders, and the 7th Bengal Infantry. With bands playing and enthusiastically cheered on all sides by countless numbers of spectators, the contingent marched into the ground through a stately triumphal arch, which had been specially erected for the occasion. The troops were there formed into line, and the officers having been ordered to the front, General Carnegy, commanding the district, amid loud cheers from the troops, read the following telegram just received from the Viceroy:—"I heartily congratulate the troops returning from Egypt upon the manner in which they have borne themselves during the late campaign. They have entirely fulfilled the expectations of the Government, and they have added fresh lustre to the reputation of the Indian army. I tender them my best thanks." The General, having read the Viceroy's telegram, called for cheers for the Indian Contingent, with a special cheer for General Mapcherson, and the invitation having met with an enthusiastic response, the troops were then dismissed to participate in the programme of sports which had been prepared for their amusement.

Later in the afternoon the European troops were entertained at dinner, and the native soldiers were at the same time entertained in accordance with their special tastes, habits, and requirements, and the officers of the Contingent were independently entertained at dinner later in the evening. The festivities of the day were concluded with an illumination and a brilliant display of fireworks. No such festival holiday has, it is stated, been known in Bombay since the occasion of the visit of the Prince of Wales. A public dinner is to be given to the sailors of the Indian Squadron on the arrival of Admiral Hewitt from Suez.

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THE MEETING OF THE FRENCH CHAMBERS.

Noticing the fact that the French Chambers re-assemble to-day (Thursday), the *Standard* remarks :—M. Duclerc will have to go through the ordeal no Minister in France can hope to escape, of attempting to satisfy the various and conflicting demands made by a Legislature that persists in refusing to have any recognised leaders, but prefers to divide itself into a number of small and jealous factions. The circumstances under which the Cabinet came into existence may well render it scrupulous on the score of its dignity ; and it is said that M. Duclerc intends to announce in categorical terms that he will not consent to be a Minister on sufferance, or the mere head of an administrative Cabinet. In other words, he will expect a Vote of Confidence to begin with, in some shape or another. That is a boon which all French Ministers covet, but very few acquire; and unless M. Duclerc either exhibit unusual tact, or enjoy uncommon good fortune, he will be tempting fate if he advance his demand too crudely. It is difficult to see how the Chamber can fairly be expected to pass a distinct Vote of Confidence in a Ministry that has hardly had the opportunity of inspiring that sentiment. M. Duclerc and his colleagues have shown themselves strikingly anxious not to give umbrage in any quarter; but this is a negative quality, and the Ministry would hardly be satisfied with a vote that recorded its perfect harmlessness. The Circular enjoining that religious emblems had better be smuggled away from primary schools during the holidays, than removed during term-time, exhibited a conciliatory disposition; but it is conceivable that it may have irritated the religious world, without satisfying anti-clerical fanatics. The withdrawal by the Minister of Finance of the somewhat ambitious arrangement into which M. Léon Say proposed to enter with the Orleans Railway Company is another instance of the cautious disposition of the Vacation Cabinet. But these are not acts sufficiently decided to justify the Ministry in asking for, or the Chamber in conceding, a Vote of Confidence. Unquestionably, M. Duclerc and his friends have manifested a sincere belief in the virtue of liberty to correct licence, for perhaps under no previous Government have the spouters of sedition enjoyed so much immunity. Both the Royalists and the Socialists have had exceptional opportunities of airing their opinions, and if it can be urged that Paris has been the theatre of some disgraceful placards, and Lyons the arena of revolutionary disorder, it may, at any rate, be answered that, on the whole, public tranquillity has not suffered from these exceptional scandals. It is, however, rather upon questions of foreign than of domestic policy, that M. Duclerc will have to satisfy the Chamber; and he will find himself in the same dilemma regarding it which caused the perplexity, and finally the overthrow of his predecessors. M. Gambetta fell, because he wanted to do too much, and he too spirited. M. de Freycinet was dismissed because he wanted to do too little, and was spiritless. It is not easy to see how the most dexterous Minister is to steer his way successfully between such a Scylla and Charybdis. The Chamber, which in this respect probably reflects the temper of the nation, is not willing that France should be ousted from its position of at least equal partner with this country in the direction of the affairs of Egypt. On the other hand, it is not willing that the Ministry should involve it in a quarrel with this country, or with any country, in order to preserve the influence that is imperilled. Probably the wisest course a French Statesman could take would be to talk loudly of the rights of France, and to abstain quietly from asserting them. But he would run the danger, in saying too much, of the authority and pretensions of France, of being believed, and he might be hurled from power on account of a policy which he never intended to pursue. It must be apparent to all sensible Frenchmen that France can reasonably claim, and is likely to obtain, only just that amount of authority and control in Egypt which England is willing to concede to her. Equally manifest must it be to them that, in the true interests of France, as well as of England and Egypt, the English Government will not concede very much. Anything that could content the natural susceptibility of the French people without again delivering Egypt to plagues both native and foreign, the English people would be glad to see yielded. But our neighbours have only to put themselves in our position, and us in theirs, to remember all we have done and all they refused to do, to perceive, without any explanation or remonstrance on our part, that it is our bounden duty not to refuse the Egyptians the just and natural fruits of our single-handed interference and our single-handed victory. Whether M. Duclerc is of this opinion, and whether, being of this opinion, he will have the courage to express it without ambiguity, may be open to question. He may imitate our own Ministers in asking to be allowed to adhere to his attitude of reserve. The French Chambers are considerate and patriotic when such an appeal is made to them, and may consent to remain in the dark altogether as to what it is the English Government offers France in substitution of the lapsed *condominium*. If they do not the information we have for some time been pressing for at home will come to us from over the Channel. We should welcome enlightenment on this point from any quarter.

THE ACTION FOR BREACH OF PROMISE AGAINST MR. BIGGAR, M.P.—The action brought by Miss Hyland against the Member for Cavan for damages for breach of promise of marriage has, notwithstanding the efforts made by the friends of both parties to effect a settlement, been entered in the list of actions to be tried during the present sittings of the Court. It is understood that the defendant has refused to agree to Miss Hyland's proposals for settling the action, and therefore the matter will occupy the attention of a judge and jury. Mr. A. M. Sullivan, who was to have conducted the case for the plaintiff, being in America, the services of Mr. Edward Clarke, Q.C., M.P., and Mr. R. G. Reid, M.P., have been retained on behalf of the plaintiff; while Mr. Charles Russell, Q.C., M.P., will appear on behalf of the defendant. The case, which is No. 464 in the list of actions to be tried, is not expected to be reached before the beginning of next month.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

QUESTIONS.

In answer to a question from Mr. Bourke, Sir C. DILKE said that Arabi's trial would be conducted under special conditions agreed on with his counsel; and asked whether they would be made public, he was understood to say that they would.

In answer to Mr. Buxton, Lord HARTINGTON explained the arrangements made for the reception of the representatives of the Indian Army, who are expected to arrive on Wednesday; and Colonel Stanley, amid much laughter, asked whether, considering what had been said in 1878, the consent of Parliament would be asked for bringing Indian troops to England. Lord Hartington asked that notice should be given.

In answer to questions as to the rendition of refugees at Gibraltar, Mr. ASHLEY said the Government had no further information; and Sir C. Dilke, asked as to the action of the Foreign Office, said it would not conduce to a favourable result if he were to go into it.

THE CLOTURE.

The Adjourned Debate on Sir S. Northcote's proposal to negative the clôture was resumed by

Lord LYMINGTON, who argued that as obstruction had been practised by all parties, and as the old co-operative feeling was dying out of the House, some expedient of this kind was necessary. He denied, however, that the intention was to limit freedom of debate—it was simply to methodize business. But he hoped that the result would not be to substitute despotism of officialism for despotism of obstruction.

Sir W. HART-DYKE, speaking from 12 years' experience as a Whip, maintained that with careful management of the business and the assistance of two of the subsequent Resolutions the clôture might be altogether dispensed with, and in respect to the present Session especially he asserted that the Prime Minister by his arrangement of business had wasted time and was the chief obstructive. The safeguards were of no avail, for his experience taught him that there could be no more tyrannical instrument than a majority, excited and having a certain end in view, and as to the initiative of the Chair it must certainly in time destroy its impartiality. Although he hoped the Opposition would not consent to this change without a prolonged struggle, which was justified by the Prime Minister's vacillating treatment of the question, he could not agree with Lord R. Churchill that it would be advisable to force Government to a dissolution just at this moment.

Mr. BROADHURST spoke in favour of the Resolution, and Mr. Thompson, though his first impression was against the Resolution, held that after the liberties of the Irish people had been suspended twice by *coups d'Etat*, some legislation for shortening debates was necessary.

Mr. S. HERBERT, in opposing the Resolution, quoted passages from the speeches of Mr. Chamberlain in vindication of obstruction, and Sir H. Holland, on the same side, showed that the Colonial experience was against the clôture, and pointed out that the leading journals of those countries where the clôture was in force all deplored that we were following their example. No necessity had been shown for the change, and the guarantees would be of no avail.

Mr. MELLOR pointed out that as far back as 1848 obstruction had obtruded itself on public notice, and the clôture had been suggested as a remedy. The Opposition admitted that some change was necessary, though they declined to suggest any alternative; and the country, he believed, was thoroughly unanimous in demanding that obstructive talk should be put a stop to. Every security was taken in the resolution against injustice being done, and he could not conceive the possibility of the clôture being used unfairly.

Mr. L. FRY also dwelt on the thorough determination of the constituencies to place the House of Commons in a position to do the work expected from it, to which Sir H. Maxwell replied that this was all wirepulling, and that, with the exception of Mr. Labouchere and Mr. Gladstone, not a Liberal inside the House had shown a scintilla of enthusiasm for the clôture. Mr. H. Lee supported the resolution, while Colonel Dawnay, Colonel Kennard, and Mr. P. Phipps gave an uncompromising opposition to it. Mr. Dixon-Hartland discussed the foreign precedents, which he showed were all against the proposal, and Lord Emlyn commented on the varying tone assumed by the Treasury Bench according to the momentary necessity of re-assuring the Whigs that no interference with freedom of debate was intended or of persuading the Radicals that the clôture would pass all their favourite measures.

Mr. Beresford-Hope and Mr. C. Phipps opposed the resolution.

Lord G. HAMILTON maintained that of all forms of clôture this was the most dangerous. It was hypocritical, inasmuch as it did not mean what it said, and it did not do what it pretended. Instead of putting down obstruction it would actually legalise those kinds of it mainly objected to. It directed the Speaker to co-operate with the majority, and it regulated judicial decisions by the amount of party pressure. He believed that if the country understood the certain effect of the resolution in degrading the character of the Speaker there would be a strong feeling against it, but one of the chief complaints against the Government was that they had so drawn the resolution and so contrived the mode of proceeding as to conceal its meaning. He complained, too, that whatever popular support was given to the proposal had been obtained by misrepresenting its character, and that the Prime Minister had attempted to calm apprehensions by assurances which he could not possibly fulfil. It was an additional objection that it would be worked by a Minister of Mr. Gladstone's destructive tendencies. Hereafter he anticipated that the old friendly and social relations between members of opposing parties would no longer exist, and the advantage which the Liberal party would gain would be dearly purchased.

Sir G. CAMPBELL thought the clôture so fenced round with safeguards that it would rarely be used, but some of these safeguards, he feared, would increase the tendency to howl members down.

Mr. W. H. SMITH maintained that the Conservative party had always been ready to co-operate with the Ministry in upholding the dignity and efficiency of the House of Commons, and that some of the subsequent Resolutions would have been amply sufficient to remedy whatever evil existed without this serious innovation. The closing power exercised by a majority would reverse all the traditions of the past, and would divorce the Opposition and its Leader from the responsibilities which had hitherto been reposed in it. Violent changes would produce a reaction, and legislation carried under the clôture would certainly be reversed at the earliest opportunity.

The House adjourned at 20 minutes past 12 o'clock.

THE DUBLIN CORPORATION AND SIR GARNET WOLSELEY.—With regard to the second attempt to be made at a special meeting of the Dublin Corporation, to confer the freedom of the city on Sir Garnet Wolseley, the *Freeman's Journal* says :—"Advantage is being taken of the absence of four members, who are members of Parliament, to bring the matter on again. General Wolseley is an Englishman by stock, by service, by rank and title, and not one of Ireland's heroes because of his success in a campaign in which Ireland's sympathies are with the conquered." It recommends ward meetings to be held to protest against the proposal,

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

BALMORAL CASTLE, TUESDAY.

The Queen walked in the morning yesterday, attended by the Dowager Marchioness of Ely. Princess Beatrice went out with Miss Bauer. In the afternoon her Majesty drove, attended by Lady Ely and the Hon. Evelyn Moore. The Earl of Northbrook had the honour of dining with the Queen. Lord Sackville arrived at the Castle.

The Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, attended by Lady Caroline Cust, has returned to St. James's Palace from a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Bedford, at Woburn Abbey.

Count Karolyi has joined the shooting party visiting Lord Herries at Everingham Park, Yorkshire.

The Duke and Duchess of Argyll left Inverary on Tuesday morning in their yacht, *en route* for London and the South of France.

The Earl and Countess of Sefton's party at Croxteth Park, for the Liverpool race meeting, includes Maria Marchioness of Ailesbury, Earl and Countess Cadogan, Earl and Countess Howe, Viscount and Viscountess Castlereagh, Viscount and Viscountess Lascelles, Lord and Lady Alexander Gordon Lennox, Lord Norreys, Colonel Hon. Henry Forester, Sir George Chetwynd, Sir Henry des Vœux, Captain Swaine, Mr. Grosvenor, and Mr. Ryder.

The Earl of Roden has left town for Ireland.

No serious consequences, says the *Morning Post*, are feared from the injuries sustained by Countess Somers in the railway accident near Boulogne on Monday. The Countess is severely shaken, but it is hoped that she will be able to resume her journey in a few days.

Lord and Lady Aveland and family have left town for Normanton Park, Stamford.

Lord Norton has joined Lady Norton and family at Hams Hall, from Scotland.

The marriage of Major John Ramsay Slade, C.B., Royal Horse Artillery, and Miss Janet L. Wood, youngest daughter of the late General Robert Blucher Wood, C.B., and Lady Constantia, sister of Henry third Earl of Lonsdale, took place on Tuesday at the Roman Catholic church of St. Mary, Cadogan-street, a large number of relatives and friends, as well as six non-commissioned officers of the Royal Horse Artillery, being present. The wedding party began to assemble soon after eleven o'clock, the bridegroom coming accompanied by his brother, Major Montagu M. Slade, 10th Royal Hussars, who officiated as best man. The bridesmaids were Miss Venetia Bentinck, Lady Verena Lowther, and Miss Ruth Wood, cousins of the bride; Miss Helen Slade, sister, and Miss Alice Slade, cousin of the bridegroom; Miss Mary Lane Fox, niece of the bridegroom, and Miss Lillie Brassey. The bride entered the church at 10 minutes to twelve o'clock, accompanied by her elder sister, Miss Evelyn Wood. The bride wore a perfectly plain dress of white corded silk, and over a small wreath of orange blossoms a tulle veil. She wore no jewels. The bridesmaids' dresses were composed of ivory Indian silk embroidered with gold, looped up on one side with gold cord and tassels, and trimmed with silk of the same colour and gold lace; cream lace bonnets, with gold pompons and pearls. Each of the bridesmaids wore a brooch, diamond and pearl lily of the valley set on a gold branch, the gift of the bridegroom. The Very Rev. Dr. Patterson, Bishop of Emmaus, performed the marriage rite, assisted by the Rev. J. J. Brennan, the bride being given away by her sister, Miss Evelyn Wood. Afterwards the wedding party reassembled at the Misses Wood's house, 10, William-street, Lowndes-square, for breakfast, at which there were present a numerous company. Shortly after two o'clock Major and Mrs. Slade took their departure for Osterley Park, Southall, the seat of the Dowager Duchess of Cleveland, great aunt to the bride. The bride's travelling dress was brown plush over a stamped leather petticoat, and brown velvet bonnet to correspond. Among the numerous presents received by the bride was a cheque from the Dowager Duchess of Cleveland for £1,000.

The marriage of Mr. Walter Dalrymple and Miss Elsie Clifford, third daughter of Major-Gen. the Hon. Sir Henry Clifford, V.C., C.B., and Lady Clifford, took place at the Church of the Oratory, Brompton, on Tuesday. Owing to the illness of Sir Henry Clifford, the marriage was a very quiet one. The bridegroom was attended by Mr. Horace West as best man, and there were only two bridesmaids—Miss Sibyl Clifford, sister, and the Hon. Cecilia Clifford, cousin to the bride. The sacred rite was performed by the Hon. and Right Rev. William Clifford, Bishop of Clifton, uncle to the bride, assisted by the Rev. Father Sebastian Bowden, of The Oratory. The bride was given away, in her father's absence, by General Herbert, quarter-master-general. The wedding breakfast, which took place at the Earl and Countess of Kenmare's residence in Belgrave-square, was limited to the members of both families. The bride and bridegroom left early in the afternoon to pass the honeymoon at The Briars, Freshwater, Isle of Wight, lent to them by the Earl of Kenmare.

LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM "THE WORLD.")

Few successful generals have enjoyed the penetrating pleasure which was given to Sir Garnet Wolseley the other day at Balmoral, where her Majesty did her general the honour of proposing his health, at her own dinner-table, in kind, and warm, and charmingly chosen words. Sir Garnet's return for the queenly compliment was to couple with his thanks the proposal of the Duke of Connaught's health. This added to the delight of the Queen, who has the name of her soldier-son very near her heart.

One of the proposals for the Queen to inspect the troops who have returned from Egypt seems scarcely feasible—it is that contingents from each of the regiments shall be sent to London, and that they shall form up on either side the Mall in St. James Park, from Buckingham Palace to the Horse Guards' Parade. The Queen would then drive slowly down the line to the Horse Guards, where she would wait till the troops had marched past her.

Sir Frederick Leighton had hoped that, by taking Egypt in his holiday tour, he might see a little of the campaign for the bettering of his efficiency and knowledge as a zealous Volunteer. But Sir Garnet Wolseley was too quick for him, and he arrived on the scene after Tel-el-Kebir had been fought and won.

The suggestion that some of "the returning brave" should be utilised for the Lord Mayor's Show has been ingeniously improved upon by the good people of Brighton. On the 4th Dragoon Guards—or as many of them as could be mounted—parading the town last Friday, the townfolk, in their eagerness to do them honour, had recourse to their Mayor and local circus. A triumphal car from Mr. Ginnetts's establishment followed at the heels of the hapless detachment, its tiers of musicians crowned by a placard explaining that *these* were the men who had ridden to Cairo. The worthy Mayor, in his robes of office, headed the procession in his victoria; and as the gallant troopers—who had turned out right smartly—threaded their way through the dense mob, it irresistibly suggested an Irish magnate guarded to church by military and police.

It was pleasant enough to be pelted with violets, but to be bombarded by bouquets—*c'est une autre affaire*. Prima donnas may be used to it, but Dragoons are not. The enthusiast who took a shot at the Colonel fortunately just missed him; but the bouquet was duly handed up, and the question arose, What was to be done with it? For awhile it reposed on the Colonel's pommel. Then, by a happy inspiration, it was transferred to the colour-sergeant's charge.

For those who believe that Henry Irving is before all things a character actor, it will be good news to learn that Dion Boucicault is writing a play upon the subject of Don Quixote, in which Mr. Irving is to appear as the Don. Who, I wonder, is to be the Sancho Panza? There is some talk about David James, but the feeling of the author is that Toole, if he could be secured, would be the man.

The future fathers of our men to be will, I take it, have a difficult task in the choice of a profession for their sons. They will be obliged to study their weight and capabilities very narrowly. If a lad exhibit a talent for cliqueism and what the Irish call "schaming," they will make him an artist, and he will receive thousands where Landseer did hundreds. If he have goggle eyes and a huge mouth, he should be a low comedian, and will earn easily three or four hundred thousand a year. But if he be a light-weight, he should be a jockey.

Everybody is happy to know that "Fred" Archer is completely above the world, and has, from his own investments, or rather those which Lord Falmouth has counselled him to make, an independent income which would enable him to retire to-morrow, and live handsome ever after. The famous jockey's marriage with pretty Miss Nellie Dawson is to take place about Christmas. The new house for the happy pair is nearly finished. It is beyond "the Duchess's," on the same side of the road as Hammond's, and is of red brick with stone dressing, a handsome dwelling with conservatory, kitchen-garden, hot-houses, walls for fruit, shrubbery, lawn, and stables, all complete, even to the mastiff. There is, however, a skeleton in a closet, or rather there will be; for there is now fitting up a perfect Turkish bath for Archer to reduce himself to as nearly a perfect skeleton as may be.

Mr. Pierre Lorillard has sent his racehorses to be trained by Tom Cannon, to whom the Americans appear greatly to incline, as Mr. J. R. Keene pays him £2,000 a year to have first claim on his services as a jockey. The new arrangements will, however, often place Cannon in a somewhat invidious position, as he will have to ride for Mr. Keene against horses trained by himself.

Count Zbrouski, who has hunted in Meath and the County Dublin for the past two seasons, is expected to arrive from America very soon with seventeen pure-bred Yankee horses, who have been schooled over all American obstacles, including the well-known "snake" fences, and embankments thrown up *more Hibernico*.

Photography has made strides of late, which some of the artists do not like; for if the camera can not only draw more accurately than the pencil, but can map lights and shades better, and deal with half-tones more delicately, what is the reward of labour and toil? Mr. Ruskin, however, notoriously loves truth too well to care how it is achieved; and he has expressed his delight at Mr. Barraud's photograph of himself, which expresses all the good there is in his work, as he declares. It has the keenest look of the penetrating blue eyes and the most thoughtful droop of the long thick eyebrows.

Mr. Henry Reeve, as I pointed out a week or two ago, has been saying some silly things about Shelley in the *Edinburgh Review*; but he has been quite outdone by Mr. H. S. Salt. In the current number of *Temple Bar* that gentleman winds up a perfervid eulogy of Shelley "as a teacher" with the astounding statement that "though he cannot in the narrow sectarian sense be called a Christian, yet one may venture to say that *no more truly Christ-like character has appeared in the world during the last eighteen centuries*." One may venture to say it—a Salt—but hardly two. If much more of this sort of thing goes on, we shall get back to that condition of which it was said by Sydney Smith, "There is no God, and Miss Martineau is His prophet!"

Fifteen hundred head to seven guns is slaughter indeed. The scene of blood was enacted on Mr. C. J. H. Tower's Essex preservos at South Weald Park on Wednesday. The party, which consisted of Lord Waldegrave, Lord St. John, Sir Robert Harvey, Mr. Wynne, Mr. Gill, Mr. Brownlow Tower, and Mr. Egerton Tower, killed 417 pheasants, 1,081 rabbits, and four hares. This extraordinary bag is accounted for by the fact that this was the first time the covers had been shot over this season.

Much has been said, and a great deal written, respecting the late acquisition of the "Hamilton Manuscripts," by the German Royal Museum at Berlin. I have heard, and from a most reliable source, that the institution in question has just paid four times the amount necessary, our own authorities having settled that £20,000 was their full value. Certainly the British Museum could not have purchased the collection *en bloc*, being already in possession of illuminations, etc., of much higher character. The gem of the collection was a manuscript of Dante's *Divina Commedia*, with illustrations attributed, whether so or not, to Sandro Botticelli. On each page are four columns of manuscript, and it opened somewhat similar to an album. Perhaps one of the most exquisite designs was that of Dante and Beatrice. However beautiful this unique volume is, seven, eight, or even ten thousand pounds would have amply repaid the late possessor. The German Museum has consequently given for this volume *alone* the munificent sum of £60,000.

POLITICAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

The division on Sir Stafford Northcote's Motion will not, it is expected, be taken before Friday. The greatest efforts are being made on both sides to bring up members, and it is believed that the numbers taking part in the division will be as large as on the occasion of the division on Mr. Marriott's Amendment.

We believe that in the course of a day or two a number of Amendments on the other Rules will be placed on the paper by leading members of the Opposition.

The Prime Minister has consented to be nominated as the President of the new National Liberal Club. Among the speakers at the preliminary meeting to be held on the 16th inst., in addition to Lord Northbrook, who will preside, are the Marquess of Hartington, Sir William Harcourt, the Attorney General (Sir H. James), the Solicitor General (Sir F. Herschell), and Mr. Evelyn Ashley.

(FROM THE DAILY "NEWS.")

Contrary to the views indignantly expressed by Mr. Chaplin and echoed by high Conservative authorities, the Opposition are not only reckoning upon the votes of the Parnellites at the forthcoming division on the First Resolution, but the Conservative Whip has enlisted over a dozen to assist in postponing the division by making speeches.

Apparently with the intention of discounting the forthcoming Government majority on Sir Stafford Northcote's motion to reject the First Resolution, a Conservative newspaper states that Mr. Gladstone has made it known that he will resign if the resolution be not carried. This statement is not only without foundation, but it is contrary to the distinct declarations of the Premier twice made in the House of Commons.

Whatever course the Conservative party, under the leadership of Sir Stafford Northcote, may take on the remaining resolutions on Procedure, Lord Randolph Churchill has made up his mind to carry out the principles of his recently-issued manifesto. On Tuesday night he handed in at the table fifty-three amendments in his own name and those of members of his personal following. Mr. Winn's list of members pledged to speak has risen from forty-one to over sixty. These being classified and arranged open up a certain prospect of keeping the talk going till Friday, and it is now arranged that the division should take place on that night.

Whilst the earliest possible day will be found for the discussion of Sir Stafford Northcote's motion with respect to Egypt, there is, we believe, no intention to interrupt the debate on Procedure in order that it may go forward. Had the vote been one of censure, the case would have been different, and no business would have been permitted to stand in the way of settlement of the issue. But the motion which the Leader of the Opposition has placed on the table appears chiefly designed to obtain information.

It was rumoured in the House of Commons last night that Mr. Raikes will resign his seat for Preston in order to stand for Cambridge University.

THE CLAYCROSS COLLIERY ACCIDENT

Writing from the neighbourhood of the explosion which took place on Tuesday morning in the Parkhouse Pit, near Chesterfield, a correspondent says:— Cage after cage descended with volunteer explorers, whose task was difficult and dangerous, as when they returned to the surface they were suffering severely from the effects of after-damp. George Dunn, who managed during his father's illness, was among the first to be brought up. He was terribly burnt about the face; his hair, eyebrows, and whiskers were singed off. Joseph Shimwell, who was in the pit when the calamity occurred, found Dunn lying unconscious, and stopped to assist him, till they were met by several of the explorers. Dunn would undoubtedly have perished but for the timely help of Shimwell. Patrick Leville, who was working in the dip till 10 o'clock on Tuesday morning, states that when he left the pit he could not carry a naked light, as the current of air was so strong. Leville, who came up with the last batch, thought there would be no men working where the explosion occurred. He left eight at the bottom of the shaft. One of the first to be brought up after the disaster was Samuel Stoppard, who was suffering from after-damp. About 11 o'clock William Jacques and John Cook were rescued, and found to be very slightly injured. They were working down the "incline," about half a mile from No. 7 shaft. They saw an unusual light, and Jacques remarked that there must be an explosion of gas somewhere. As they made their way along they found "archings," bricks, and barrows scattered about. Halfway up the incline they saw John Holmes, better known as "Tarrier," lying on the ground, apparently lifeless. A little further along they saw Holmes's companion, Philip Scothorn, lying face downwards, and he also appeared to be dead. Aaron Toplis, Joseph Foster, and Joseph Burland were also rescued during the morning, and were found to be suffering from after-damp. The first exploring party, consisting of Mr. Croudace, Mr. George Dunn, sen., Mr. Joseph Booth, Joseph Foster, and Jedediah Orme, descended half an hour after the explosion. The ventilation at the time was very bad, and several of the explorers had to be brought up. Mr. George Howe, the head engineer at No. 7 pit, succeeded in getting very near the shaft of this pit in the afternoon, and found that the ventilation was being rapidly restored and no sign of any further explosion. Charles Colley, who escaped from the "Dips," says that when he came out he heard one of Mr. Dunn's sons, a lad of 15, crying for help from the cabin close to No. 7 pit, but he could not render him any assistance. This boy, however, was rescued during the afternoon. His brother Robert was also brought up wrapped in a blanket. He was still alive, though motionless. Another brother, William, with an uncle, remains in the pit. Henry Blakemore, who came up at half-past 3 o'clock, states that he fell over Holmes's body, and also discovered that of Henry Beeson, both of whom are believed to be dead. About 4 o'clock one of the young men employed by the company, who was near No. 7 shaft, thought he heard someone calling, and, climbing over the barricading, listened for some time. At last he heard a faint "Hallo." He asked, "Are you all right?" and the reply came, "We are all right; we have come from the workings; we want lights." In the result it was made known that the brothers William Dunn and Robert Dunn had been found. It was not until two hours had elapsed that they could be brought up. Their uncle and the fourth brother, Joseph, still remain in the pit. With the exception of the three brothers Dunn, who are very seriously burnt, the others rescued were chiefly affected by after-damp, and recovered sufficiently to walk home with assistance. When the exploring party was drawn up on Tuesday evening there remained below 30 colliers and bricklayers, who, it is feared, have all perished.

The following is the latest information received :—

CLAYCROSS, WEDNESDAY, ONE P. M.

The explosion proves to have been much more serious than was at first supposed, for there are no less than 40 persons still missing. At eleven o'clock last night an exploring party entered the works, but is was found impossible, owing to the great damage caused by the explosion, to get near the bend, where the majority of the bodies are lying. Mr. Laverick, of Riddins, Mr. Mills, of Chesterfield, and Mr. Eaton, of the Staveley Coal Company, had charge of the explorers, and a gang of men was set apart to make the road, for the archings have been blown down by the gas. In places the *débris* had to be dug away. At midnight considerable progress had been made towards the No. 7 shaft, and on the roadway and in the banks 15 bodies were found not seriously burnt, but the men appeared to have succumbed to afterdamp. No effort was made to remove the bodies, as the road was not sufficiently clear, and the exploring party came up the shaft. In addition to these 15 bodies there are 25 others in the pit, and for these search is now being made. An exploring party went down at eight o'clock this morning, and is still in the workings. It has been decided to bring the already-discovered bodies up at the shaft at half-past two o'clock this afternoon, when Mr. Stokes, her Majesty's Assistant Inspector of Mines, will be present; Mr. Thomas Evans, the Mining Inspector, will arrive a little later.

THREE O'CLOCK.

The explorations are being continued, and each step reveals fresh phases of the severity of the explosion. The greatest damage has been done on the north side of the Parkhouse shaft, and there lie a large number of men horribly burnt. A number of workmen are busy repairing the shaft, which was wrecked by the explosion, and they state that the scene underground beggars description. It has been ascertained that there are forty-three men in the pit, all of whom are dead, or if they be alive they must have escaped by a miracle. Mr. Dunn, the underground manager, who was in the pit the whole of yesterday, is seriously ill in bed, suffering from choke damp.

The ventilation is now restored, and it is believed most of the bodies will be got out to-day.

WILFUL OBSTRUCTION IN PARLIAMENT.—Among the new notices of motion in Parliament to which no date has yet been assigned is one of seven clauses by Sir Henry Peek. After declaring that wilful obstruction is a term incapable of exhaustive definition, and that it should therefore be left to the instinct of the House, Sir Henry proposes that immediately after prayers on Wednesday any member may give notice that in the opinion of the House a specified member "has been guilty of wilful obstruction." This motion must be put on the following Monday without debate or amendment, and if carried by a majority of three-fourths it is proposed that the offending member should be "reduced to silence" for the rest of the session, although still allowed to vote. Sir Henry Peek also intends to propose that no members other than Privy Councillors, Ministers, or ex-Ministers be allowed to address either House or Committee for more than fifteen consecutive minutes unless with special permission.

EGYPT.

THE HEALTH OF THE TROOPS.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Tuesday evening :—

I regret to say that the health of the troops is causing great anxiety to the military authorities. Owing to the long delay in providing proper barrack accommodation for them—a matter to which I referred a month ago—and the general insufficiency of accommodation, the majority of the troops are still remaining under canvass. The present is perhaps the very worst time of year in Egypt. The sharp alterations of temperature night and day, and the dampness of the atmosphere caused by the wide extent of mud left bare by the sinking of the Nile level, render the climate of Cairo exceedingly dangerous. Moreover, the camps are situated so far from the town that the soldiers very seldom have the opportunity of such change and recreation as would be afforded by visits to it, but are condemned to the monotony of tent life, and this at a season when it is dark for twelve hours out of the twenty-four. All these circumstances are prejudicial alike to the *morale* and physical health of the men, and the result is an alarming increase of sickness. The largest hospital, that at Abassayeh, which makes up four hundred beds, is now always full, the fresh admissions averaging forty a day, and indeed the vacancies created by death, invaliding home, and discharges are more than filled up. The chief maladies are intermittent fever, dysentery, and typhoid. From the latter cause six deaths occurred last Sunday alone. It is satisfactory to know that this matter has awakened interest in the highest quarters. The Queen yesterday telegraphed for information respecting the health of the Army.

The sickness does not even spare the horses, and the Cavalry are suffering severely from an epidemic form of anthrax fever. It has been therefore decided to remove the greater part of the Artillery and Cavalry to Helouan sulphur baths, a health resort in the desert some fourteen miles from Cairo. The 19th Hussars, who would find it difficult to mount one squadron of full strength, go there to-morrow, and will shortly be followed by the other regiments. Mr. Broadley was to-day invited to meet the Commissioners of Inquiry, in order to enlighten them on certain elementary points of law and procedure, of which they are naturally wholly ignorant. The difficulties, indeed, of an Egyptian tribunal sitting to try men under what are virtually the provisions of English procedure are becoming more and more apparent. Lord Dufferin arrived here this evening, and was met at the station by Cherif Pacha, Riaz Pacha, Sir E. Malet, Sir A. Alison, and several other British officers and Egyptian officials. He proceeded at once to the Palace of Kasr Moussa, which has been placed at his disposal by the Khedive, until the house which has been taken for him can be got in readiness to receive him.

The Alexandria correspondent of the same paper telegraphed on Tuesday :—

Lord and Lady Dufferin arrived here to-day in the *Antelope*, and went on by special train to Cairo. Judging by the retinue he has brought with him, Lord Dufferin's stay in Egypt is likely to be more protracted than had been anticipated. The greatest interest prevails here among the educated classes, native and European, as to the object of the mission.

The Highland Reserve men arrived here to-day from Cairo, and are embarking on board the *Nevada*. I learn that an inquiry is being held this afternoon by order of General Harman, commanding at Alexandria, into some alleged misconduct on the part of some of the Reserve during their journey from Cairo, resulting, it is said, in the death of one of the party.

Captain Rawson, R.N., transport officer, during the war, left here to-day, *viâ* Marseilles, for England.

THE INDIAN CONTINGENT.

Speaking in advance of the arrival in England of the representatives of the Indian Contingent, the *Times* says :—

The selection of these officers, non-commissioned officers, and men has been made, we have no doubt, with all due care, and our visitors will be as representative as they can be of that native army which, under British leading, has played its part in every field of battle from Plassey to Candahar, and which has enabled English authority to be set up and maintained in the States of Hindostan. One race, perhaps the bravest and most faithful of them all, will indeed be conspicuous by its absence, as none of them took part in the Egyptian expedition; but a temporary absence is not likely to make us forget the long and faithful service rendered in our interests by the Goorkhas of Nepaul. There will be representatives of many brave races and once famous peoples in this small band of warriors, who differ from one another almost as much in language and religion as they do in the stock from which they spring. Their distinctions are typical, not only of Indian society, but also of the force which they have been chosen on this occasion to represent, for even a single regiment often has in its ranks Mahomedan and Hindoos, Sikhs and Pathans, naturally antagonistic, but held together by the strong bands of discipline and by a common devotion to the Queen-Empress.

The great sect of the Sikhs, who, from being the would-be purifiers of an ancient creed, became one of the most famous of Indian governing races, will send several members to the capital of the Empire. Their name has become well-known in England for dashing valour and consistent devotion, and so long as the defence of "the small house at Arrah" lives in story, or as Rattray's Sikhs remain inscribed in our military annals, which will be as long as those annals exist, the fame of the Sepoys of the Punjab will not fade or be forgotten. Yet it is only a little more than 30 years since the Sikhs gave up the thought of preserving for themselves the dominion which Runjeet Singh had acquired at the expense of Afghan and Mogul alike. Two wars, renewed at the interval of several years, were required to curb the spirit of the Sikhs, and to destroy the military confidence of the Khalsa army. But the crowning victory at Gujerat in 1849 sufficed to attain the double object, and, with the annexation of the Punjab, the Sikhs proceeded to evince in our cause the same sterling qualities which they had shown as our opponents. During the critical ordeal of the Mutiny they were faithful among the faithless, and stood stanchly by our side until the tide of disaffection had been stemmed. The Sikhs will not, however, have all to themselves the representation of the races of the province of the Five Rivers. There will be some of those hardy and industrious Jats, whose name recalls their Scythian ancestors the Getæ, and who form the majority of the agricultural population of the Punjab. They have always been of more settled habits and of a more yielding disposition than their neighbours, as may be seen from the fact that they have embraced whatever religion happened to be the predominant one in their district. Thus, the Jats are both Mahomedan and Hindoo, and some of them have even become Sikhs. The Pathans, or Punjabis, as the Mahomedan people of that province are called, have also contributed their quota to the ranks of those who have fought this country's battles. They are the descendants of those Afghan adventurers and their followers who established themselves at the Court of Delhi and on the banks of the Sutlej and the Jhelum, and who in past centuries gave several dynasties to the throne of Hindostan. They retain much of their national daring and love of battle, and their race characteristics have been kept alive by the numerous recruits from the untamed tribes of the border. Representatives of those latter

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NOTICE.

A Four-page Supplement is published with this day's number of the MESSENGER, *and will be delivered gratis with each copy of the paper. It contains our American news and an interesting variety of literary extracts.*

Great Britain.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 8—9, 1882.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE IRISH MEMBERS.

The significance of the Prime Minister's unexpected speech on Wednesday afternoon will be as fully appreciated by the country as it was by the House of Commons. On the rival merits of the First Resolution and of Sir Stafford Northcote's Motion, Mr. Gladstone said nothing new. There was, as he frankly confessed, nothing new to be said. He discovered some fallacies in the observations made by members of the Opposition on the preceding evening, and he dealt with them at sufficient length. He also adduced some curious figures, in order to prove how little interest the Conservatives take in the discussion beyond the desire to make speeches. But the real significance and importance of the Prime Minister's speech lay, not in his utterances on the subject of the clôture, but upon what we may call his appeal to the Irish Members. The defeat of the Resolution, he argued, would be disastrous to the interests of Ireland. "About the Irish vote," he added, "I have no business and little inclination to speak, but as for many years I have had something to do with Irish affairs, I may perhaps be permitted to give my own opinion, and to submit that some more complete and effective system for the improvement of the conduct of business in this House is essential for meeting the wants of Ireland. If there be no time for English or Scotch legislation, there will be no time for Irish." Mr. Gladstone admits that he may be asked why he does not forthwith advance local legislation in Ireland. His reply is that "there is no subject I could name about which I personally feel more the profound necessity than the establishment of local self-government in Ireland;" and he emphasised this declaration by the words, "It appears to me that this question is capable of being brought to a more satisfactory issue than prophetical dispute and discussion." To appreciate adequately the interpretation which may be placed upon these utterances, it is necessary to recall certain events which have happened during the last few days. Mr. Gladstone dwelt upon the fact that he did not defer speaking till the end of the Debate, because he was anxious that the intention of the Government should be placed beyond the possibility of mistake. Is this the only reason that may be assigned for his explicitness and promptitude? A good deal, it must be remembered, has occurred since the division on Mr. Gibson's Amendment. The Irish members, who then assisted so largely to swell the Ministerial victory, have met, and have decided to go into the Opposition lobby in the division on the Amendment of Sir Stafford Northcote. It would be absurd to suppose that the Prime Minister is not acquainted with this resolution, or that he underrates the gravity of the consequences to which it may give rise. Either the coincidence between the Conference of the Irish Parliamentary Party on Monday and the statements of the Prime Minister on Wednesday is a fortuitous marvel, or these statements must stand in some definite relation to the Conference. It is to the latter of the two conclusions that probabilities would seem to point. Mr. Gladstone is thoroughly well informed of everything that goes on in which he has a personal or political interest. It is impossible he should be ignorant of the determination arrived at by Mr. Parnell and his friends; it is equally impossible that it was not present to his mind when he was speaking in the House of Commons on Wednesday. If such language had been employed upon such an occasion by any other Statesman than the present Prime Minister, we might have dismissed it as a mere manifestation of momentary feeling and as meaning nothing. But it is notorious that expressions like these when used by Mr. Gladstone have, or may have, a special and surprising significance. This would not be the first time that "winged words" thrown off with no apparent motive from his lips have formed the prelude to some radical change of policy, some signal abandonment of old and cherished ideas, some sudden conversion to views hitherto vehemently repudiated. Mr. Gladstone is in these matters a law to himself; and there are times, as every one knows who has watched his career when what would be mere common-places of rhetoric in the mouth of another, are with him solemn political formularies, foreshadowing a new departure. Mr. Gladstone has certainly exposed himself to the imputation of making an open bid for the Irish vote, to help in forcing the Clôture upon the House. However much his words may be explained away, he can have wished to imply nothing less than that, in any plan for the re-arrangement of the business of Parliament, the demands of the Home Rulers shall not be ignored. But if the recognition of such demands once begins, where is it to stop? The principle of Home Rule is, at least, well known to the Home Rulers, and they will do nothing that can be left undone towards keeping the Prime Minister up to the level of his professions.—*Standard.*

FRANCE, ENGLAND AND MADAGASCAR.

Although the French Government are anxious that the Malagasy Embassy should accept the principle of a cession of territory to France, there is not the least probability that the Ambassadors will enter into so rash an engagement. They have no power to sign away national territory; and even if they were not restrained by motives of patriotism from affixing their signatures to a Convention which had this object in view, they could not fail to be warned by what happened to Radama II. barely twenty years ago. That young King was induced to make over to a French Company rights in the soil of Madagascar that were absolutely destructive of the independence of his country, and the result was that the people repudiated the bargain, paid a large sum of money as compensation to the Company, and put their weak-minded Sovereign to death. The temper of the nation is unchanged, and if the Ambassadors were to yield to the French demands it is certain that the great majority of their countrymen would regard them as worthy of the fate that overtook the predecessor of the present Queen. This is a matter which does not concern France alone. The commercial interests of England in Madagascar are more considerable than those of any other nation, France included, and we are therefore entitled to a voice in the decision of a question which concerns all the nations that have treaty relations with the island. It is true that the total trade between the United Kingdom and Madagascar amounts to only about £95,000, but there is also a trade of £180,000 between the British colony of Mauritius and Madagascar which must of course be taken into account. The French trade also amounts to about £180,000, so that clearly the superiority rests with England. We have formally acknowledged the present Sovereign as "Queen of Madagascar," and the French have done the same. They have now suddenly discovered that this is only a conventional expression, and is by no means intended to convey any recognition on their part of the Queen's sovereignty over the whole island. But no such reservation lurks in the terms of the Treaty of 1866, which, moreover, does not contain the most distant allusion either to the independence of the Sakalavas or to the existence of a French Protectorate in any part of the country. It appears to us that the time has come when the French Government ought, in fairness, to make public the exact nature of the claim they have now put forward, as well as the grounds upon which they require the Hovas to yield to their demands. They are a people with whom we have been on friendly terms for many years. Knowing this, some French critics delight to impute to us a desire to exercise in Madagascar an authority hostile to French interests. There is absolutely no truth whatever in such statements, and it ought to be possible to make a declaration to that effect in such a form as would carry conviction to the mind of every reasonable Frenchman. The position of the Malagasy Government at the present time excites so much sympathy in England that we do not doubt that our Foreign Office will be prepared to take such action in the matter as will be calculated to promote a satisfactory settlement of the differences between the two countries.—*Daily News.*

LORD DUFFERIN AT CAIRO.

Telegraphing on Wednesday evening the Cairo correspondent of the *Standard* says:—

The Khedive to-day received Lord Dufferin. Public attention is for the time entirely withdrawn from the subject of Arabi's trial, and is centred in the Mission of the Representative of the British Government. All impartial observers—that is, those who are concerned only in the welfare of Egypt and the promotion of British interests in the country, welcome his arrival with hopefulness. The difficulties of the task he has undertaken are, no doubt, immense, for he has to re-construct a fallen edifice on ground where no solid foundation can be found upon which to build. I am in a position to state that the objects which he proposes to himself are, in the first place, to secure the welfare of Egypt in Egyptian hands; and in the second, to exclude the predominance of any foreign influence except our own. The means by which these objects are to be obtained will demand long and careful consideration. It will first be necessary thoroughly to sift the causes of the recent insurrection. The time is already past when these could be ascribed offhand to the personal ambition of a little group of conspirators, or to the discontent of a body of mutinous officers. A movement which spread so rapidly through all classes of the community, and enlisted their support in a measure which no one could have anticipated from a people naturally so patient and apathetic, must have had a foundation deeply rooted in the national sympathies and feelings.

It will be Lord Dufferin's task to trace out these causes, and to provide a remedy for them in the future. A fair presage of success may be drawn from the peace and contentment which resulted from his Mission in Syria eighteen years ago. Between that undertaking and the one upon which he is at present engaged there are many points of resemblance, although the difficulties which will have to be overcome on the present occasion are no doubt vastly greater; but as Lord Dufferin brings a large experience to bear upon them it may be hoped that a similar success will attend his efforts. All the criticisms in the English Press which have reached Cairo upon the army scheme of Baker Pacha are founded upon his original plans rather than those which he has now been driven to adopt. When he first arrived here he considered that the best guarantee for the internal and external safety of Egypt would be found in an English or Anglo-Indian contingent, permanently enrolled in the Khedive's service. Owing, however, to financial and politicial difficulties, he was obliged to abandon this scheme, and to adopt in its place one based upon the reorganisation of the Egyptian national forces. Baker Pacha accordingly recommended that an amnesty should be granted to all privates, non-commissioned officers, and junior officers of the late Egyptian army, and that a careful selection of the soundest materials therefrom should be made for the new army, of whom one-half of the officers shall be Englishmen, occupying the same position that English officers do in the native Indian regiments. The presence already of an Albanian element in Egypt naturally suggests the formation of a corps of mounted Albanian riflemen, their loyalty during the late events having been wholly unshaken. The enlistment of Swiss, Kurds, and others for the police of Alexandria has no connection whatever with Baker Pacha's scheme, and commenced, indeed, long before his arrival here.

THE DEPRESSED STATE OF THE FRENCH MONEY MARKET.

The stranger who may have paid a visit to the Bourse towards the end of last year, and who should chance to return there to-day, would be struck, indeed, says the Paris correspondent of the *Times*, with the marked contrast between the two periods:—

In the latter part of 1881, and up to the middle of January, 1882, the Paris Bourse was in a perpetual state of feverish excitement. Eager throngs of men and women congregated on the steps and in the main hall. It was a difficult task to force one's way through the crowd. The fortunate, or, as it afterwards proved, unfortunate brokers were so besieged with orders from their customers that they often found it impossible to carry them out, the business hours only lasting from half-past 12 to 3 o'clock. I am told that on some days a certain broker made £4,000 in commissions, representing transactions to the amount of four millions sterling. Everybody dabbled in stocks, time bargains were the rule, and nobody seemed to think that a day of reckoning must come. When it did come there was no apparent reason why it should come just at that moment. Things were going on as usual, political quiet reigned, and there was no special dearth of money. However, the apple was ripe, and it had to fall. An insignificant failure at Lyons was the signal of the crash. Down came the speculators' castle in the air; and unfortunately with it the general prosperity of the country. It is easy to see the ruin the crisis has left behind it. The Bourse is empty, compared with this time last year. A few groups stand on the steps, talking of anything but business. Inside it is the same story. The brokers complain that there is no speculative business, and that even the investing public is holding aloof. As a year ago it was almost a crime against society not to share the prevailing optimism, so to-day pessimism is the rule. The very people who last year were eager to buy anything and everything are now the first to decry good securities. They will not touch anything, however excellent, and advise their friends to do likewise.

Such is the state of the French market. There is plenty of money, but the investor does not come forward. Many industrial and manufacturing establishments purchased by companies during the speculative era have prospered, and come up to the promise of their prospectuses. Nevertheless, the shares of these companies are at a large discount, and could be bought at prices yielding from 8 to 10 per cent. on the investment. But there are only sellers, and no buyers. Speculation is now almost entirely confined to the so-called international stocks dealt in on the larger European Bourses. In Franch Rentes and Suez shares, formerly the pet medium of speculation of the French public, the transactions do not amount to one-tenth of what they were before the crash. I shall now attempt to describe some of the causes which led to this tremendous crash, creating such a glaring contrast between last year and this. One great reason is the social change at work in the upper classes, caused by the rapid growth of Republican institutions and innovations in these last few years. Down to the end of Marshal Macmahon's presidency, and from time immemorial, a Government office was considered to be far more respectable than any occupation connected with trade or finance. These offices were generally handed down from father to son. The pay was small, but the office gave the holder a social standing. The system worked smoothly enough, for whatever may have been their other failings, French officials have always borne a high character for integrity. Since the Marshal's downfall, there has been a great change. The Republic for the Republicans is the battle cry. As many offices as possible were taken from their occupants, and filled by new men, as a reward for political services. These wholesale dismissals drove a large number of well-connected men into new paths. Some went on the boards of public companies, others to the Bourse. M. Bontoux, who had just started the Union Générale, gathered some of these very men round him. His success at first was great. He and his bank became the standard-bearers of the Conservative malcontents in monetary matters. Financial success was to compensate them for political disappointment, nay, perchance help them to recover their lost influence.

There is nothing more catching than the mania for amateur acting—so it is with amateur financing. M. Bontoux's example was soon followed. Other banks sprang up like mushrooms, to be managed by amateur financiers, who, driven out of their proper sphere, look to financing as the easiest trade to learn. Thus was the whole country drawn into the vortex of speculation, the upper classes setting the bad example. I have endeavoured to show how to some extent the upper classes are responsible for the financial crisis, and the depression following in its train. They hoped to recover their power by financial success. Who knows but that the upper classes are nearer the goal by reason of this very failure? It is undeniable that the financial depression has not been without its effect on the political situation. The Bourse has often been called the barometer of French politics; and in its turn it has always had an influence on public opinion. For the first time for many years, attention is being paid to what is going on politically. For several years past, the well-to-do masses, driven from the political field, and absorbed by speculation, left the Government to do as it liked. Now that everything is changed, people are awakened to the true state of things. They find out that they have perhaps not quite understood their duty to France. It is true that politics are discredited, and that the Government of the country has fallen into the hands of persons not received in society. Nevertheless, the Conservative minority had no right to retire from the field and adopt a policy of masterly inactivity which does no good to the country, and reflects no credit on their party. Now would be their opportunity if they were only organised. It is only too apparent that the doings of the Socialistic party (with which the Republican authorities have dallied on account of its vote) have disgusted and aroused all reasonable people. These excesses, together with the financial depression, may weaken the hold of the Republican Government on the country. In thrifty and industrious France it is dangerous to have the own in your face "les affaires vont mal."

POLITICAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

The intervention of Mr. Gladstone in the debate on Wednesday afternoon was unexpected, and it was, we hear, due to the threatened defection of some of the moderate Home Rulers. Mr. Parnell and his friends have been making great exertions to persuade this section of the Irish party to vote against the clôture. These efforts were producing some effect, and Mr. Shaw and some of his friends were wavering. It was, therefore, deemed necessary that the Prime Minister should endeavour to convince the Irish members that their real interests lay in supporting the Government.

Mr. Gladstone's palpable bid for the Irish vote has excited considerable discontent among his own friends, and it will probably lead several Liberal members to absent themselves from the division.

Nearly fifty amendments on the remaining Procedure Resolutions have been placed on the paper by Lord R. Churchill, Mr. Gorst, and Sir H. Wolff. On the Resolution relating to the Motions for the adjournment, Lord R. Churchill intends to move that such a Motion may be made "if any evasive or discourteous answer shall have been given to any question by a Minister of the Crown."

On the same Resolution, Mr. Gibson proposes to move that such a Motion may be made "on requisition signed by sixty members, and handed to the Clerk at the table before the questions are disposed of." Sir R. Cross also proposes to move that a Motion for the adjournment of the House may be made at question time if demanded by forty members rising in their places.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

We understand that steps are being taken to form a committee for the purpose of enlightening public opinion upon the subject of the grave differences that have arisen between France and Madagascar, and also of appealing to Lord Granville to exert the influence of England on behalf of the Malagasy Government and people.

FATALITY AT A GUY FAWKES CELEBRATION.—While attending a Guy Fawkes celebration at Medbourne, Leicestershire, John Ely Garfield, groom to Sir Bache Cunard, was fatally injured by an iron pipe which had been converted into a cannon by the village blacksmith. The pipe was filled with powder, and when discharged flew back, striking the deceased behind the ear, and knocking him down insensible. He never regained consciousness, and died at the house of the head master of the South Leicestershire Hunt, where he was employed.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at twenty minutes to one o'clock.

THE CLOTURE.

The adjourned debate on the *clôture* was resumed by Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, who condemned it unreservedly in every form, attributing the deadlock to the sensational legislation of the present Government and maintaining that it could be remedied without adopting what he regarded as a mere wire-pulling machine for stopping free discussion. Wherever the *clôture* had been adopted in foreign countries it had been fatal to political freedom, and he challenged the Prime Minister to produce a case in which it had succeeded.

Mr. Macliver supported the Resolution, as did also Mr. Marjoribanks, who regarded it as a useful instrument for promoting measures which had been subjected to interminable delay.

Mr. Northcote urged that the debate should not be allowed to close until the Prime Minister had given an interpretation of the evident sense of the House, and Baron de Worms, in a vigorous speech, attacked the Prime Minister's motives for bringing the motion forward, and denounced it as the worst form of despotism.

Sir J. PEASE professed himself unable to understand how the clôture could be used for party purposes, while Mr. M'Carthy reminded him that the Home Secretary had distinctly recommended it on these grounds, and maintained that the Resolution, even as interpreted by the Speaker, would afford no protection to small minorities. It would check and hamper legitimate obstruction, but insidious and dishonest obstruction would not find it difficult to evade it. If the subsequent Rules had been carried first, in all probability the clôture would not have been needed.

Mr. BAXTER, on the contrary, regarded this mild and scrupulously-drawn Resolution as a very feeble instrument, and ridiculed the suggestion that it would be used to prevent discussion or silence the Opposition. It was absurd to expect that the antiquated rules which sufficed for the time of Pitt and Fox would meet the changed circumstances of the House of Commons, and ten years ago he had recommended the clôture as a means of dealing with obstructive opposition and undue loquacity.

Mr. O'CONNOR POWER, on the other hand, regarded the Resolution as designedly arbitrary and tyrannical, and augured from the unconciliatory and harsh action of the Government during these debates that the instrument would be used unsparingly.

Mr. GLADSTONE said he rose at this period of the debate in order to show that the Government did not even tacitly admit that a prolongation of the debate was a useful employment of the public time. There might, no doubt, be many members desirous of speaking, but not so many desirous of listening, and to enforce this, he read some amusing statistics of the scanty attendance of members on the Opposition benches at various periods of the debate. Replying to arguments used in the course of the day, he said, while admitting that the people did not understand the Rules of the House in detail, that they knew that the House was not able to do the work required of it, and they had this reform, therefore, deeply at heart. In answer to Mr. Northcote, he said the evident sense would be interpreted by the mind of the Speaker and his interpretation would be received with confidence by the House. Moreover, if the Rule were found to work badly or to make that change in the traditions of the House and of the Chair which was predicted, a remedy would very soon be found. As to the war cry of "freedom of discussion" threatened by Lord R. Churchill, he denied that freedom of debate was in any way endangered, and further he maintained that under the present system, freedom of debate did not exist. Addressing the Irish members, he pointed out to them that none were more interested than they in a modification of the Rules of the House which would give time for Irish legislation, and especially he mentioned the question of local self-government. As for the predictions of evil, he answered them by pointing to the experience of the Urgency Rules of last year, which were infinitely more severe than the present proposals, but which did not prevent ample discussion.

Mr. E. STANHOPE examined the conflicting reasons which had been given by the Ministerialists for the clôture, showing that it would not check prolix speakers, dilatory motions, or obstruction generally, and that it could have no effect but to facilitate the passing of party measures, and it would also be the first step towards a permanent change in the character of the House of Commons.

At this point the debate was adjourned until to-day, and the House adjourned at a quarter to 6 o'clock.

THE INDIAN CONTINGENT.

Speaking in advance of the arrival in England of the representatives of the Indian Contingent, the *Times* says:—

The selection of these officers, non-commissioned officers, and men has been made, we have no doubt, with all due care, and our visitors will be as representative as they can be of that native army which, under British leading, has played its part in every field of battle from Plassey to Candahar, and which has enabled English authority to be set up and maintained in the States of Hindostan. One race, perhaps the bravest and most faithful of them all, will indeed be conspicuous by its absence, as none of them took part in the Egyptian expedition; but a temporary absence is not likely to make us forget the long and faithful service rendered in our interests by the Goorkhas of Nepaul. There will be representatives of many brave races and once famous peoples in this small band of warriors, who differ from one another almost as much in language and religion as they do in the stock from which they spring. Their distinctions are typical, not only of Indian society, but also of the force which they have been chosen on this occasion to represent, for even a single regiment often has in its ranks Mahomedan and Hindoos, Sikhs and Pathans, naturally antagonistic, but held together by the strong bands of discipline and by a common devotion to the Queen-Empress.

The great sect of the Sikhs, who, from being the would-be purifiers of an ancient creed, became one of the most famous of Indian governing races, will send several members to the capital of the Empire. Their name has become well-known in England for dashing valour and consistent devotion, and so long as the defence of "the small house at Arrah" lives in story, or as Rattray's Sikhs remain inscribed in our military annals, which will be as long as those annals exist, the fame of the Sepoys of the Punjab will not fade or be forgotten. Yet it is only a little more than 30 years since the Sikhs gave up the thought of preserving for themselves the dominion which Runjeet Singh had acquired at the expense of Afghan and Mogul alike. Two wars, renewed at the interval of several years, were required to curb the spirit of the Sikhs, and to destroy the military confidence of the Khalsa army. But the crowning victory at Gujerat in 1849 sufficed to attain the double object, and, with the annexation of the Punjab, the Sikhs proceeded to evince in our cause the same sterling qualities which they had shown as our opponents. During the critical ordeal of the Mutiny they were faithful among the faithless, and stood stanchly by our side until the tide of disaffection had been stemmed. The Sikhs will not, however, have all to themselves the representation of the races of the province of the Five Rivers. There will be some of those hardy and industrious Jats, whose name recalls their Scythian ancestors the Getæ, and who form the majority of the agricultural population of the Punjab. They have always been of more settled habits and of a more yielding disposition than their neighbours, as may be seen from the fact that they have embraced whatever religion happened to be the predominant one in their district. Thus, the Jats are both Mahomedan and Hindoo, and some of them have even become Sikhs. The Pathans, at Punjabis, as the Mahomedan people of that province are called, have also contributed their quota to the ranks of those who have fought this country's battles. They are the descendants of those Afghan adventurers and their followers who established themselves at the Court of Delhi and on the banks of the Sutlej and the Jhelum, and who in past centuries gave several dynasties to the throne of Hindostan. They retain much of their national daring and love of battle, and their race characteristics have been kept alive by the numerous recruits from the untamed tribes of the border. Representatives of these latter will also not be wanting from among those now on the point of reaching that distant and vaguely-known region of Frangistan.

To represent these there will be Momunds from the Peshawur Valley, Afridis from the Khyber and the Kohat Passes, and members of many smaller Khels from the verge of the Khurum and the Gomul. Scinde will also send her veterans, who will recall the feats of Outram and of Jacob's Horse, and the fierce red-breeched Beloochees will give Londoners a glimpse of one of the most warlike races of the East. The plains and interior of India send their sons to the war as well as the borders and mountain-tops of the Empire. There will be the lordly Rajput, in whose veins flows the blue blood of the Mahabaratha, the wiry and intrepid Mahratta, who almost succeeded in grasping the sceptre of Delhi, the well-trained Hindostani, the *beau idéal* of a native soldier, and the slight, but not insignificant Sepoy of Madras, the last aspersed in these later days by some unfriendly critics, and not so fortunate in respect of duty as many of his comrades, but still, in all probability, the worthy descendant of the defenders of Arcot, and of the soldiers of Wandiwash. The spectacle of these numerous warriors with their unusual aspect and their palpable military pride will probably produce as excellent an impression on the minds of home-staying Englishmen as the sight of the London crowds will on theirs. The benefit will be mutual and reciprocal. Increased knowledge cannot fail to bring the peoples of India and of England into greater harmony; and mutual respect and goodwill will produce identity of interest and concord in action.

The transport *Lusitania* arrived in Plymouth harbour on Thursday morning, from Alexandria, with the Royal Irish Fusiliers, details, and the Indian Contingent. The latter number 13 officers, 19 men, and one follower, and are selected from the 13th, 2d, and 6th Bengal Lancers, the 7th Bengal Native Infantry, and the 2d Beloochees or Queen's Own Sappers and Miners. Colonel Pennington, of the Bengal Staff Corps, accompanies the contingent, which will proceed to Wimbledon, where arrangements have been made for their accommodation. All the officers and men of the contingent are in excellent health and spirits. No sooner had the ship come alongside than the dusky faces of the Indian soldiers were seen along the bulwarks, apparently anxious as to the sort of welcome to be accorded to them. Scarcely 50 people were allowed on the jetty, but hundreds were assembled outside the dockyard, and these gave the troops a hearty cheer as the vessel came in. The Indians were highly gratified by the attention paid them as they left the ship, and those who spoke English readily entered into conversation. Govordat Sing, who was educated for six years in Lahore College, speaks the most perfect English, and he and his colleagues had nothing but praises for everything, whether the services they were called on to perform in Egypt, the character of the voyage, the attentions shown them on board the *Lusitania*, or the invitation to spend some days in England. For some time after unshipping their luggage they lounged about the jetty, and while they were pleased with the notice taken of them by officers and men who had served in India and who could speak Hindustanee, they seemed to prefer to converse in English, and this they did in a free and unreserved manner. The main state that the selection of the contingent was not made of the men with the finest physique, but the appearance of those who have arrived in the *Lusitania* would suggest that such a course had been adopted, as they are a remarkably fine body of men. Before leaving Portsmouth they were drawn up in a line on the jetty, when each officer and man was presented to Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, general commanding the district, and he was accompanied by Admiral Ryder. As the officers were presented individually by Colonel Pennington, each of them offered his sword to Prince Edward and Admiral Ryder to be touched. The majority of them wore medals, one of them, Bahadoor Hussan Ali Khan, having five, while all the representatives of the 13th Bengal Lancers, 20th Punjaub Native Infantry, and 2d Beloochees wore the Afghan medal. Prince Edward had a few minutes' conversation with each officer and man, which occupied the time till the train was due, and special carriages having been attached to the 12.20 train the detachment left for Wimbledon.

The *Daily News* says:—Few as they are, these men are drawn from nearly every part of India, and from many tribes distinct in character as are the features of the different countries from which they come. There are among them descendants of the "faithful Sikhs," Momunds from Peshawur, Afridis of the wild frontier "passes," Punjabis, Beloochees, always fierce and warlike in their bearing; Jats, who are as industrious in peace as they are formidable in fight; representatives of the Scinde tribes whose fathers gave Sir Charles Napier's veterans no little trouble, and one who fought at the "Crowning mercy" of Goojerat in 1849. Several officers—especially of the Bengal Cavalry—were distinguished by many decorations; two of them wore round their necks the red ribbon of the medal for bravery which corresponds with the much-coveted Victoria Cross; and one bearded veteran of the Lancers bore on his breast the Afghan medal of 1842. Services of this kind cannot fail to make these swarthy soldiers interesting in the eyes of English people, many of whom for the next month will probably have frequent opportunities of seeing them in the streets of London. To provide for the comfort of these various castes, who differ from each other in their habits as much as they do from Europeans, was not an easy matter. Mohammedans and Hindoos required separate quarters, and both necessarily lived apart from the English officers. Their food, even to flour, they brought with them, and drew nothing from the ship's stores but fuel and distilled water. Separate cooking places had to be set apart for each, and they slaughtered their own animals. All these details were scrupulously attended to, and the Indian contingent have nothing but words of praise for the way in which their wants were looked after by Captain Charlton and other officers of the *Lusitania*. Colonel Pennington, whose distinguished services at Kassassin should be long remembered, being in charge of this detachment, naturally took care that all native prejudices should be respected. Colonel Carington, of the Guards, had supreme military command on board, but his duties were by no means arduous, for the Royal Irish Fusiliers behaved with exemplary discipline and earned a character for good conduct that many battalions might envy, while the Indian soldiers gave nobody any trouble. To all this Captain Charlton bears cheerful witness. On the other hand, the military commandant expressed himself as perfectly satisfied with every arrangement on board the *Lusitania*, and all the officers declare it to have been a pleasure to take passage on board a ship so "well regulated and admirably ordered." These merits seem to have been fully recognised by the Government already, as the *Lusitania* has been engaged for transport service so long as there are any troops to bring home from Egypt.

The clean-kept and well-to-do village of Wimbledon seemed hardly prepared for the sudden appearance in its midst of Indian warriors, clad in strange uniforms of Oriental aspect. A private omnibus which conveyed a portion of our visitors, about three in the afternoon, up the steep hill that leads from the station to the heart of the old village attracted but little attention. Swarthy countenances were indeed to be discerned peering through its door and windows at the villas and gardens which line the roadway; and similar strange faces were observable on the roof, where their owners were crowded, glad, as it seemed, to crouch and huddle together under their military cloaks; for though the sun was shining brightly, an eager and a nipping breeze swept over the Ridge way from the Vale of Kingston, driving before it some of the last few pale leaves which are all that the tempests of a week or two past had left upon the boughs. But this was but a momentary and a passing sight. What did produce something like a sensation was the appearance of a waggon bearing camp furniture and stores of unwonted patterns, together with baggage and other property of Indian officers, which, solely toiling up the long winding ascent towards the church, was guarded by two men of the Bengal Lancers. They were little, active-looking fellows of scarcely middle height, yet soldierly in appearance, and not without a touch of that peculiar composure of manner which belongs to Oriental races. One of them wore a dark-blue turban of many folds, surmounted by a crimson conical-shaped ornament. He was an officer's orderly, a Pathan by race, belonging to the 13th Bengal Lancers. So in broken but intelligible English he was understood to reply to a hospitable Wimbledonite upon the road who, in token of amity and welcome, offered him a couple of choice cigars, which he respectfully accepted. His comrade, whose huge turban, like the rest of his uniform, was of fawn-coloured linen with a like conical ornament of darker hue, belonged, he said, to the 20th. Each wore the thick, long, blue military cloak that seemed to be regarded as their most precious possession, beneath which a bright cavalry sabre hung nearly to the ground. Their route lay through the heart of the old village, now somewhat obscured and lost to sight among the new roads and mansions and trim residences which have sprung up in recent years in this favoured spot, and thence along the pretty south-east corner of the common, where huge timber trees cast their shade in the summer over the sward, and football and cricket, encouraged by the welcome sunshine, were yesterday in full force. Sutherland House, which has been taken by the Indian Government for the reception of visitors, stands some two miles and a half away from the station, behind the line of solid mansions which, with their extensive grounds, bound the common on its eastern border.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

BALMORAL CASTLE, WEDNESDAY.

The Queen went out in the morning yesterday, accompanied by Princess Beatrice. Her Majesty drove in the afternoon, attended by the Dowager Marchioness of Ely. Princess Beatrice walked with Miss Bauer. The Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe arrived at the Castle and has succeeded the Dowager Marchioness of Ely as Lady in Waiting. Lady Ely remains at the Castle. The Earl of Northbrook had the honour of dining with the Queen.

THE REVIEW OF THE TROOPS BY THE QUEEN.

The review of troops by the Queen will take place about three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, the 20th inst., the troops being under the command of Sir Garnet Wolseley, while the Duke of Connaught will head the Guards. The Marines at Portsmouth will arrive in London on the morning of the Review day. After the inspection by her Majesty a grand march-past will take place. Her Majesty has expressed a desire, through Sir Evelyn Wood, to Colonel Commandant Jordan, of the Royal Engineers, Chatham, that two non-commissioned officers, or two sappers, representing the Royal Engineer force recently returned from Egypt, shall attend the forthcoming Royal Review, in order that she may personally thank and decorate them for their valuable services in Egypt.

The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh and suite have arrived at Sandringham on a visit to the Prince and Princess of Wales, for the celebration of the birthday of the Prince of Wales.

The Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the rest of the guests have been shooting the Sandringham coverts.

The Earl and Countess of Lonsdale left Carlton House-terrace on Wednesday for Brigstock, Thrapston.

The Earl of Courtown has arrived in town from Courtown House, county Wexford.

Archdeacon and Lady Louisa Hamilton have left Eglingham, Northumberland, for the Deanery, Chester-le-Street.

The Anglesey Hunt Week was successfully inaugurated on Monday at Beaumaris, when the hounds threw off at Plas Gwyn, the seat of Captain G. Pritchard Rayner, the master. Mr. H. Lloyd Mostyn holds the comptrollership of the hunt this year, Mr. O. T. Lloyd-Evans, of Brown Hall, being the deputy comptroller, and Miss Massey, of Cornelyn, the lady patroness. A ball was held at Beaumaris Town-hall on Monday night.

A sad accident happened on Monday to a lady whilst hunting. The Warwickshire had got into full cry at Pillerton, and as the horse of Mrs. Brooke Robinson, of Burford, was just going to take a fence some one rode crossways to the same spot. The lady pulled up her horse to prevent a collision, and was thrown. The other rider's horse then kicked her at the back of the head and elsewhere, and she was taken up quite unconscious and carried on a gate to the nearest farmhouse, where she lies in a dangerous condition.

THE CLAYCROSS COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

The explosion on Tuesday proves to have been much more serious than was at first supposed, for there are no less than 40 persons still missing. At eleven o'clock on Tuesday night an exploring party entered the works, but is was found impossible, owing to the great damage caused by the explosion, to get near the bend, where the majority of the bodies are lying. Mr. Laverick, of Riddins, Mr. Mills, of Chesterfield, and Mr. Eaton, of the Staveley Coal Company, had charge of the explorers, and a gang of men was set apart to make the road, for the archings have been blown down by the gas. In places the *débris* had to be dug away. At midnight considerable progress had been made towards the No. 7 shaft, and on the roadway and in the banks 15 bodies were found not seriously burnt, but the men appeared to have succumbed to afterdamp. No effort was made to remove the bodies, as the road was not sufficiently clear, and the exploring party came up the shaft. In addition to these 15 bodies there are at least 25 others in the pit, and for these search is now being made. An exploring party went down at eight o'clock on Wednesday morning.

A correspondent writing from Claycross late on Wednesday night says:—William Dunn, one of the manager's sons, who was seriously injured, died this evening. The recovery of the bodies progresses very slowly,

Galignani's Messenger.

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NOTICE.

A Four-page Supplement is published with this day's number of the MESSENGER, *and will be delivered gratis with each copy of the paper. It contains our American news and an interesting variety of literary extracts.*

Great Britain.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 8—9, 1882.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE IRISH MEMBERS.

The significance of the Prime Minister's unexpected speech on Wednesday afternoon will be as fully appreciated by the country as it was by the House of Commons. On the rival merits of the First Resolution and of Sir Stafford Northcote's Motion, Mr. Gladstone said nothing new. There was, as he frankly confessed, nothing new to be said. He discovered some fallacies in the observations made by members of the Opposition on the preceding evening, and he dealt with them at sufficient length. He also adduced some curious figures, in order to prove how little interest the Conservatives take in the discussion beyond the desire to make speeches. But the real significance and importance of the Prime Minister's speech lay, not in his utterances on the subject of the clôture, but upon what we may call his appeal to the Irish Members. The defeat of the Resolution, he argued, would be disastrous to the interests of Ireland. "About the Irish vote," he added, "I have no business and little inclination to speak, but as for many years I have had something to do with Irish affairs, I may perhaps be permitted to give my own opinion, and to submit that some more complete and effective system for the improvement of the conduct of business in this House is essential for meeting the wants of Ireland. If there be no time for English or Scotch legislation, there will be no time for Irish." Mr. Gladstone admits that he may be asked why he does not forthwith advance local legislation in Ireland. His reply is that "there is no subject I could name about which I personally feel more the profound necessity than the establishment of local self-government in Ireland;" and he emphasised this declaration by the words, "It appears to me that this question is capable of being brought to a more satisfactory issue than prophetical dispute and discussion." To appreciate adequately the interpretation which may be placed upon these utterances, it is necessary to recall certain events which have happened during the last few days. Mr. Gladstone dwelt upon the fact that he did not defer speaking till the end of the Debate, because he was anxious that the intention of the Government should be placed beyond the possibility of mistake. Is this the only reason that may be assigned for his explicitness and promptitude? A good deal, it must be remembered, has occurred since the division on Mr. Gibson's Amendment. The Irish members, who then assisted so largely to swell the Ministerial victory, have met, and have decided to go into the Opposition lobby in the division on the Amendment of Sir Stafford Northcote. It would be absurd to suppose that the Prime Minister is not acquainted with this resolution, or that he underrates the gravity of the consequences to which it may give rise. Either the coincidence between the Conference of the Irish Parliamentary Party on Monday and the statements of the Prime Minister on Wednesday is a fortuitous marvel, or these statements must stand in some definite relation to the Conference. It is to the latter of the two conclusions that probabilities would seem to point. Mr. Gladstone is thoroughly well informed of everything that goes on in which he has a personal or political interest. It is impossible he should be ignorant of the determination arrived at by Mr. Parnell and his friends; it is equally impossible that it was not present to his mind when he was speaking in the House of Commons on Wednesday. If such language had been employed upon such an occasion by any other Statesman than the present Prime Minister, we might have dismissed it as a mere manifestation of momentary feeling and as meaning nothing. But it is notorious that expressions like these when used by Mr. Gladstone have, or may have, a special and surprising significance. This would not be the first time that "winged words" thrown off with no apparent motive from his lips have formed the prelude to some radical change of policy, some signal abandonment of old and cherished ideas, some sudden conversion to views hitherto vehemently repudiated. Mr. Gladstone is in these matters a law to himself; and there are times, as every one knows who has watched his career when what would be mere common-places of rhetoric in the mouth of another, are with him solemn political formularies, foreshadowing a new departure. Mr. Gladstone has certainly exposed himself to the imputation of making an open bid for the Irish vote, to help in forcing the Clôture upon the House. However much his words may be explained away, he can have wished to imply nothing less than that, in any plan for the re-arrangement of the business of Parliament, the demands of the Home Rulers shall not be ignored. But if the recognition of such demands once begins, where is it to stop? The principle of Home Rule is, at least, well known to the Home Rulers, and they will do nothing that can be left undone towards keeping the Prime Minister up to the level of his professions.—*Standard.*

FRANCE, ENGLAND AND MADAGASCAR.

Although the French Government are anxious that the Malagasy Embassy should accept the principle of a cession of territory to France, there is not the least probability that the Ambassadors will enter into so rash an engagement. They have no power to sign away national territory; and even if they were not restrained by motives of patriotism from affixing their signatures to a Convention which had this object in view, they could not fail to be warned by what happened to Radama II. barely twenty years ago. That young King was induced to make over to a French Company rights in the soil of Madagascar that were absolutely destructive of the independence of his country, and the result was that the people repudiated the bargain, paid a large sum of money as compensation to the Company, and put their weak-minded Sovereign to death. The temper of the nation is unchanged, and if the Ambassadors were to yield to the French demands it is certain that the great majority of their countrymen would regard them as worthy of the fate that overtook the predecessor of the present Queen. This is a matter which does not concern France alone. The commercial interests of England in Madagascar are more considerable than those of any other nation, France included, and we are therefore entitled to a voice in the decision of a question which concerns all the nations that have treaty relations with the island. It is true that the total trade between the United Kingdom and Madagascar amounts to only about £95,000, but there is also a trade of £180,000 between the British colony of Mauritius and Madagascar which must of course be taken into account. The French trade also amounts to about £180,000, so that clearly the superiority rests with England. We have formally acknowledged the present Sovereign as "Queen of Madagascar," and the French have done the same. They have now suddenly discovered that this is only a conventional expression, and is by no means intended to convey any recognition on their part of the Queen's sovereignty over the whole island. But no such reservation lurks in the terms of the Treaty of 1866, which, moreover, does not contain the most distant allusion either to the independence of the Sakalavas or to the existence of a French Protectorate in any part of the country. It appears to us that the time has come when the French Government ought, in fairness, to make public the exact nature of the claim they have now put forward, as well as the grounds upon which they require the Hovas to yield to their demands, They are a people with whom we have been on friendly terms for many years. Knowing this, some French critics delight to impute to us a desire to exercise in Madagascar an authority hostile to French interests. There is absolutely no truth whatever in such statements, and it ought to be possible to make a declaration to that effect in such a form as would carry conviction to the mind of every reasonable Frenchman. The position of the Malagasy Government at the present time excites so much sympathy in England that we do not doubt that our Foreign Office will be prepared to take such action in the matter as will be calculated to promote a satisfactory settlement of the differences between the two countries.—*Daily News.*

LORD DUFFERIN AT CAIRO.

Telegraphing on Wednesday evening the Cairo correspondent of the *Standard* says:—

The Khedive to-day received Lord Dufferin. Public attention is for the time entirely withdrawn from the subject of Arabi's trial, and is centred in the Mission of the Representative of the British Government. All impartial observers—that is, those who are concerned only in the welfare of Egypt and the promotion of British interests in the country, welcome his arrival with hopefulness. The difficulties of the task he has undertaken are, no doubt, immense, for he has to re-construct a fallen edifice on ground where no solid foundation can be found upon which to build. I am in a position to state that the objects which he proposes to himself are, in the first place, to secure the welfare of Egypt in Egyptian hands; and in the second, to exclude the predominance of any foreign influence except our own. The means by which these objects are to be obtained will demand long and careful consideration. It will first be necessary thoroughly to sift the causes of the recent insurrection. The time is already past when these could be ascribed offhand to the personal ambition of a little group of conspirators, or to the discontent of a body of mutinous officers. A movement which spread so rapidly through all classes of the community, and enlisted their support in a measure which no one could have anticipated from a people naturally so patient and apathetic, must have had a foundation deeply rooted in the national sympathies and feelings.

It will be Lord Dufferin's task to trace out these causes, and to provide a remedy for them in the future. A fair presage of success may be drawn from the peace and contentment which resulted from his Mission in Syria eighteen years ago. Between that undertaking and the one upon which he is at present engaged there are many points of resemblance, although the difficulties which will have to be overcome on the present occasion are no doubt vastly greater; but as Lord Dufferin brings a large experience to bear upon them it may be hoped that a similar success will attend his efforts. All the criticisms in the English Press which have reached Cairo upon the army scheme of Baker Pacha are founded upon his original plans rather than those which he has now been driven to adopt. When he first arrived here he considered that the best guarantee for the internal and external safety of Egypt would be found in an English or Anglo-Indian contingent, permanently enrolled in the Khedive's service. Owing, however, to financial and politicial difficulties, he was obliged to abandon this scheme, and to adopt in its place one based upon the reorganisation of the Egyptian national forces. Baker Pacha accordingly recommended that an amnesty should be granted to all privates, non-commissioned officers, and junior officers of the late Egyptian army, and that a careful selection of the soundest materials therefrom should be made for the new army, of whom one-half of the officers shall be Englishmen, occupying the same position that English officers do in the native Indian regiments. The presence already of an Albanian element in Egypt naturally suggests the formation of a corps of mounted Albanian riflemen, their loyalty during the late events having been wholly unshaken. The enlistment of Swiss, Kurds, and others for the police of Alexandria has no connection whatever with Baker Pacha's scheme, and commenced, indeed, long before his arrival here.

THE DEPRESSED STATE OF THE FRENCH MONEY MARKET.

The stranger who may have paid a visit to the Bourse towards the end of last year, and who should chance to return there to-day, would be struck, indeed, says the Paris correspondent of the *Times*, with the marked contrast between the two periods;—

In the latter part of 1881, and up to the middle of January, 1882, the Paris Bourse was in a perpetual state of feverish excitement. Eager throngs of men and women congregated on the steps and in the main hall. It was a difficult task to force one's way through the crowd. The fortunate, or, as it afterwards proved, unfortunate brokers were so besieged with orders from their customers that they often found it impossible to carry them out, the business hours only lasting from half-past 12 to 3 o'clock. I am told that on some days a certain broker made £4,000 in commissions, representing transactions to the amount of four millions sterling. Everybody dabbled in stocks, time bargains were the rule, and nobody seemed to think that a day of reckoning must come. When it did come there was no apparent reason why it should come just at that moment. Things were going on as usual, political quiet reigned, and there was no special dearth of money. However, the apple was ripe, and it had to fall. An insignificant failure at Lyons was the signal of the crash. Down came the speculators' castle in the air; and unfortunately with it the general prosperity of the country. It is easy to see the ruin the crisis has left behind it. The Bourse is empty, compared with this time last year. A few groups stand on the steps, talking of anything but business. Inside it is the same story. The brokers complain that there is no speculative business, and that even the investing public is holding aloof. As a year ago it was almost a crime against society not to share the prevailing optimism, so to-day pessimism is the rule. The very people who last year were eager to buy anything and everything are now the first to decry good securities. They will not touch anything, however excellent, and advise their friends to do likewise.

Such is the state of the French market. There is plenty of money, but the investor does not come forward. Many industrial and manufacturing establishments purchased by companies during the speculative era have prospered, and come up to the promise of their prospectuses. Nevertheless, the shares of these companies are at a large discount, and could be bought at prices yielding from 8 to 10 per cent. on the investment. But there are only sellers, and no buyers. Speculation is now almost entirely confined to the so-called international stocks dealt in on the larger European Bourses. In French Rentes and Suez shares, formerly the pet medium of speculation of the French public, the transactions do not amount to one-tenth of what they were before the crash. I shall now attempt to describe some of the causes which led to this tremendous crash, creating such a glaring contrast between last year and this. One great reason is the social change at work in the upper classes, caused by the rapid growth of Republican institutions and innovations in these last few years. Down to the end of Marshal Macmahon's presidency, and from time immemorial, a Government office was considered to be far more respectable than any occupation connected with trade or finance. These offices were generally handed down from father to son. The pay was small, but the office gave the holder a social standing. The system worked smoothly enough, for whatever may have been their other failings, French officials have always borne a high character for integrity. Since the Marshal's downfall, there has been a great change. The Republic for the Republicans is the battle cry. As many offices as possible were taken from their occupants, and filled by new men, as a reward for political services. These wholesale dismissals drove a large number of well-connected men into new paths. Some went on the boards of public companies, others to the Bourse. M. Bontoux, who had just started the Union Générale, gathered some of these very men round him. His success at first was great. He and his bank became the standard-bearers of the Conservative malcontents in monetary matters. Financial success was to compensate them for political disappointment, nay, perchance help them to recover their lost influence.

There is nothing more catching than the mania for amateur acting—so it is with amateur financing. M. Bontoux's example was soon followed. Other banks sprang up like mushrooms, to be managed by amateur financiers, who, driven out of their proper sphere, look to financing as the easiest trade to learn. Thus was the whole country drawn into the vortex of speculation, the upper classes setting the bad example. I have endeavoured to show how to some extent the upper classes are responsible for the financial crisis, and the depression following in its train. They hoped to recover their power by financial success. Who knows but that the upper classes are nearer the goal by reason of this very failure? It is undeniable that the financial depression has not been without its effect on the political situation. The Bourse has often been called the barometer of French politics; and in its turn it has always had an influence on public opinion. For the first time for many years, attention is being paid to what is going on politically. For several years past, the well-to-do masses, driven from the political field, and absorbed by speculation, left the Government to do as it liked. Now that everything is changed, people are awakened to the true state of things. They find out that they have perhaps not quite understood their duty to France. It is true that politics are discredited, and that the Government of the country has fallen into the hands of persons not received in society. Nevertheless, the Conservative minority had no right to retire from the field and adopt a policy of masterly inactivity which does no good to the country, and reflects no credit on their party. Now would be their opportunity if they were only organised. It is only too apparent that the doings of the Socialistic party (with which the Republican authorities have dallied on account of its vote) have disgusted and aroused all reasonable people. These excesses, together with the financial depression, may weaken the hold of the Republican Government on the country. In thrifty and industrious France it is dangerous to have thrown in your face "les affaires vont mal."

POLITICAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

The intervention of Mr. Gladstone in the debate on Wednesday afternoon was unexpected, and it was, we hear, due to the threatened defection of some of the moderate Home Rulers. Mr. Parnell and his friends have been making great exertions to persuade this section of the Irish party to vote against the clôture. These efforts were producing some effect, and Mr. Shaw and some of his friends were wavering. It was, therefore, deemed necessary that the Prime Minister should endeavour to convince the Irish members that their real interests lay in supporting the Government.

Mr. Gladstone's palpable bid for the Irish vote has excited considerable discontent among his own friends, and it will probably lead several Liberal members to absent themselves from the division.

Nearly fifty amendments on the remaining Procedure Resolutions have been placed on the paper by Lord R. Churchill, Mr. Gorst, and Sir H. Wolff. On the Resolution relating to the Motions for the adjournment, Lord R. Churchill intends to move that such a Motion may be made "if any evasive or discourteous answer shall have been given to any question by a Minister of the Crown."

On the same Resolution, Mr. Gibson proposes to move that such a Motion may be made "on requisition signed by sixty members, and handed to the Clerk at the table before the questions are disposed of." Sir R. Cross also proposes to move that a Motion for the adjournment of the House may be made at question time if demanded by forty members rising in their places.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

We understand that steps are being taken to form a committee for the purpose of enlightening public opinion upon the subject of the grave differences that have arisen between France and Madagascar, and also of appealing to Lord Granville to exert the influence of England on behalf of the Malagasy Government and people.

FATALITY AT A GUY FAWKES CELEBRATION.—While attending a Guy Fawkes celebration at Medbourne, Leicestershire, John Ely Garfield, groom to Sir Bache Cunard, was fatally injured by an iron pipe which had been converted into a cannon by the village blacksmith. The pipe was filled with powder, and when discharged flew back, striking the deceased behind the ear, and knocking him down insensible. He never regained consciousness, and died at the house of the head master of the South Leicestershire Hunt, where he was employed.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at twenty minutes to one o'clock.

THE CLOTURE.

The adjourned debate on the *clôture* was resumed by Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, who condemned it unreservedly in every form, attributing the deadlock to the sensational legislation of the present Government and maintaining that it could be remedied without adopting what he regarded as a mere wire-pulling machine for stopping free discussion. Wherever the *clôture* had been adopted in foreign countries it had been fatal to political freedom, and he challenged the Prime Minister to produce a case in which it had succeeded.

Mr. Macliver supported the Resolution, as did also Mr. Marjoribanks, who regarded it as a useful instrument for promoting measures which had been subjected to interminable delay.

Mr. Northcote urged that the debate should not be allowed to close until the Prime Minister had given an interpretation of the evident sense of the House, and Baron de Worms, in a vigorous speech, attacked the Prime Minister's motives for bringing the motion forward, and denounced it as the worst form of despotism.

Sir J. PEASE professed himself unable to understand how the cloture could be used for party purposes, while Mr. M'Carthy reminded him that the Home Secretary had distinctly recommended it on these grounds, and maintained that the Resolution, even as interpreted by the Speaker, would afford no protection to small minorities. It would check and hamper legitimate obstruction, but insidious and dishonest obstruction would not find it difficult to evade it. If the subsequent Rules had been carried first, in all probability the cloture would not have been needed.

Mr. BAXTER, on the contrary, regarded this mild and scrupulously-drawn Resolution as a very feeble instrument, and ridiculed the suggestion that it would be used to prevent discussion or silence the Opposition. It was absurd to expect that the antiquated rules which sufficed for the time of Pitt and Fox would meet the changed circumstances of the House of Commons, and ten years ago he had recommended the clôture as a means of dealing with obstructive opposition and undue loquacity.

Mr. O'CONNOR POWER, on the other hand, regarded the Resolution as designedly arbitrary and tyrannical, and augured from the unconciliatory and harsh action of the Government during these debates that the instrument would be used unsparingly.

Mr. GLADSTONE said he rose at this period of the debate in order to show that the Government did not even tacitly admit that a prolongation of the debate was a useful employment of the public time. There might, no doubt, be many members desirous of speaking, but not so many desirous of listening, and to enforce this, he read some amusing statistics of the scanty attendance of members on the Opposition benches at various periods of the debate. Replying to arguments used in the course of the day, he said, while admitting that the people did not understand the Rules of the House in detail, that they knew that the House was not able to do the work required of it, and they had this reform, therefore, deeply at heart. In answer to Mr. Northcote, he said the evident sense would be interpreted by the mind of the Speaker and his interpretation would be received with confidence by the House. Moreover, if the Rule were found to work badly or to make that change in the traditions of the House and of the Chair which was predicted, a remedy would very soon be found. As to the war cry of "freedom of discussion" threatened by Lord R. Churchill, he denied that freedom of debate was in any way endangered, and further he maintained that under the present system, freedom of debate did not exist. Addressing the Irish members, he pointed out to them that none were more interested than they in a modification of the Rules of the House which would give time for Irish legislation, and especially he mentioned the question of local self-government. As for the predictions of evil, he answered them by pointing to the experience of the Urgency Rules of last year, which were infinitely more severe than the present proposals, but which did not prevent ample discussion.

Mr. E. STANHOPE examined the conflicting reasons which had been given by the Ministerialists for the cloture, showing that it would not check prolix speakers, dilatory motions, or obstruction generally, and that it could have no effect but to facilitate the passing of party measures, and it would also be the first step towards a permanent change in the character of the House of Commons.

At this point the debate was adjourned until to-day, and the House adjourned at a quarter to 6 o'clock.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

BALMORAL CASTLE, WEDNESDAY.

The Queen went out in the morning yesterday, accompanied by Princess Beatrice. Her Majesty drove in the afternoon, attended by the Dowager Marchioness of Ely. Princess Beatrice walked with Miss Bauer. The Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe arrived at the Castle and has succeeded the Dowager Marchioness of Ely as Lady in Waiting. Lady Ely remains at the Castle. The Earl of Northbrook had the honour of dining with the Queen.

THE REVIEW OF THE TROOPS BY THE QUEEN.

The review of troops by the Queen will take place about three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, the 20th inst., the troops being under the command of Sir Garnet Wolseley, while the Duke of Connaught will head the Guards. The Marines at Portsmouth will arrive in London on the morning of the Review day. After the inspection by her Majesty a grand march-past will take place. Her Majesty has expressed a desire, through Sir Evelyn Wood, to Colonel Commandant Jordan, of the Royal Engineers, Chatham, that two non-commissioned officers, or two sappers, representing the Royal Engineer force recently returned from Egypt, shall attend the forthcoming Royal Review, in order that she may personally thank and decorate them for their valuable services in Egypt.

The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh and suite have arrived at Sandringham on a visit to the Prince and Princess of Wales, for the celebration of the birthday of the Prince of Wales.

The Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the rest of the guests have been shooting the Sandringham coverts.

The Earl and Countess of Lonsdale left Carlton House-terrace on Wednesday for Brigstock, Thrapston.

The Anglesey Hunt Week was successfully inaugurated on Monday at Beaumaris, when the hounds threw off at Plas Gwyn, the seat of Captain G. Pritchard Rayner, the master. Mr. H. Lloyd Mostyn holds the comptrollership of the hunt this year, Mr. O. T. Lloyd-Evans, of Brown Hall, being the deputy comptroller, and Miss Massey, of Cornelyn, the lady patroness. A ball was held at Beaumaris Town-hall on Monday night.

A sad accident happened on Monday to a lady whilst hunting. The Warwickshire had got into full cry at Pillerton, and as the horse of Mrs. Brooke Robinson, of Burford, was just going to take a fence some one rode crossways to the same spot. The lady pulled up her horse to prevent a collision, and was thrown. The other rider's horse then kicked her at the back of the head and elsewhere, and she was taken up quite unconscious and carried on a gate to the nearest farmhouse, where she lies in a dangerous condition.

THE INDIAN CONTINGENT.

The *Daily News* says:—Few as they are, these men are drawn from nearly every part of India, and from many tribes distinct in character as are the features of the different countries from which they come. There are among them descendants of the "faithful Sikhs," Momunds from Peshawur, Afridis of the wild frontier "passes," Punjabis, Beloochees, always fierce and warlike in their bearing; Jats, who are as industrious in peace as they are formidable in fight; representatives of the Scinde tribes whose fathers gave Sir Charles Napier's veterans no little trouble, and one who fought at the "Crowning mercy" of Goojerat in 1849. Several officers—especially of the Bengal Cavalry—were distinguished by many decorations; two of them wore round their necks the red ribbon of the medal for bravery which corresponds with the much-coveted Victoria Cross; and one bearded veteran of the Lancers bore on his breast the Afghan medal of 1842. Services of this kind cannot fail to make these swarthy soldiers interesting in the eyes of English people, many of whom for the next month will probably have frequent opportunities of seeing them in the streets of London. To provide for the comfort of these various castes, who differ from each other in their habits as much as they do from Europeans, was not an easy matter. Mohammedans and Hindoos required separate quarters, and both necessarily lived apart from the English officers. Their food, even to flour, they brought with them, and drew nothing from the ship's stores but fuel and distilled water. Separate cooking places had to be set apart for each, and they slaughtered their own animals. All these details were scrupulously attended to, and the Indian contingent have nothing but words of praise for the way in which their wants were looked after by Captain Charlton and other officers of the *Lusitania*. Colonel Pennington, whose distinguished services at Kassassin should be long remembered, being in charge of this detachment, naturally took care that all native prejudices should be respected. Colonel Carington, of the Guards, had supreme military command on board, but his duties were by no means arduous, for the Royal Irish Fusiliers behaved with exemplary discipline and earned a character for good conduct that many battalions might envy, while the Indian soldiers gave nobody any trouble. To all this Captain Charlton bears cheerful witness. On the other hand, the military commandant expressed himself as perfectly satisfied with every arrangement on board the *Lusitania*, and all the officers declare it to have been a pleasure to take passage on board a ship so "well regulated and admirably ordered." These merits seem to have been fully recognised by the Government already, as the *Lusitania* has been engaged for transport service so long as there are any troops to bring home from Egypt.

The clean-kept and well-to-do village of Wimbledon seemed hardly prepared for the sudden appearance in its midst of Indian warriors, clad in strange uniforms of Oriental aspect. A private omnibus which conveyed a portion of our visitors, about three in the afternoon, up the steep hill that leads from the station to the heart of the old village attracted but little attention. Swarthy countenances were indeed to be discerned peering through its door and windows at the villas and gardens which line the roadway; and similar strange faces were observable on the roof, where their owners were crowded, glad, as it seemed, to crouch and huddle together under their military cloaks; for though the sun was shining brightly, an eager and a nipping breeze swept over the Ridge way from the Vale of Kingston, driving before it some of the last few pale leaves which are all that the tempests of a week or two past had left upon the boughs. But this was but a momentary and a passing sight. What did produce something like a sensation was the appearance of a waggon bearing camp furniture and stores of unwonted patterns, together with baggage and other property of Indian officers, which, slowly toiling up the long winding ascent towards the church, was guarded by two men of the Bengal Lancers. They were little, active-looking fellows of scarcely middle height, yet soldierly in appearance, and not without a touch of that peculiar composure of manner which belongs to Oriental races. One of them wore a dark-blue turban of many folds, surmounted by a crimson conical-shaped ornament. He was an officer's orderly, a Patan by race, belonging to the 13th Bengal Lancers. So in broken but intelligible English he was understood to reply to a hospitable Wimbledonite upon the road who, in token of amity and welcome, offered him a couple of choice cigars, which he respectfully accepted. His comrade, whose huge turban, like the rest of his uniform, was of fawn-coloured linen with a like conical ornament of darker hue, belonged, he said, to the 20th. Each wore the thick, long, blue military cloak that seemed to be regarded as their most precious possession, beneath which a bright cavalry sabre hung nearly to the ground. Their route lay through the heart of the old village, now somewhat obscured and lost to sight among the new roads and mansions and trim residences which have sprung up in recent years in this favoured spot, and thence along the pretty south-east corner of the common, where huge timber trees cast their shade in the summer over the sward, and football and cricket, encouraged by the welcome sunshine, were yesterday in full force. Sutherland House, which has been taken by the Indian Government for the reception of visitors, stands some two miles and a half away from the station, behind the line of solid mansions which, with their extensive grounds, bound the common on its eastern border.

THE COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

A correspondent writing from Clavcross late on Wednesday night says:—William Dunn, one of the manager's sons, who was seriously injured, died this evening. The recovery of the bodies progresses very slowly, only fifteen having been brought up at eight o'clock to-night. Mr. Evans and Mr. Stokes, Government inspectors, who arrived from Derby during the afternoon, descended No. 7 shaft. Mr. Coroner Busby and Superintendent Coope also visited the scene of the disaster. Mr. Crondall, certified manager, is still unable to leave his room owing to the effect of after-damp, and Mr. George Dunn, underground manager, is also confined to his bed. The exploring parties are under the charge of Messrs. George Parker and Thomas Dunn, whilst Mr. Joseph Dickenson superintends the surface operations. To-night Admiral Egerton, M.P., and Lady Louisa Egerton visited the scene of the catastrophe and also the hospital and homes of the injured men, taking them presents of fruit and other delicacies from Chatsworth House. The actual number killed is now stated to be forty-five. It is hoped that the explorers, who are working most energetically, will be able to reach the remainder during the night.

Writing on Thursday morning a correspondent says:—Another exploring party under Mr. Stokes, assistant Government Inspector, has been organized, and will go down the dips and endeavour to penetrate to that portion of the mine where it is believed 15 bodies are entombed. Only 15 bodies have been brought to the bank, the additional seven being Joseph Stone, Thomas Wheeldon, Philip Scothern, Emmanuel Clarke and his son, Henry Beeson, and John Holmes. Amongst the batch of explorers that came up during the night is a man who since the calamity has been in the pit about 30 hours, and has been almost in every part between Nos. 7 and 8 shafts. He states that of the remaining 28 bodies, he believes 15 will be found in the dips, and the remainder in the cross cuts. The greatest possible damage has been done, he says, to rolling stock. Ventilation is improving.

R. Dunn, one of the injured, has been removed from the hospital to his home. Jas. Stevenson, banksman, states that he was 50 yards from the shaft when the explosion occurred, and a great plank hurled out of the shaft struck him, breaking both arms and fracturing his nose. He was rendered insensible, but coming round, crawled to the carpenter's shop, and was taken to the hospital.

The exploring party under Mr. Stokes, which went down at an early hour this morning, returned this afternoon, bringing with them six additional bodies, William Shelton, Joseph Walters, Aaron Beeson, Richard Taylor, Owen Richards, and James Edwards. They report the roadways much damaged. Joseph Phipps, the furnaceman, has been got out fearfully burnt, and almost unrecognizable. Mr. Crowdace has gone down with another exploring party, but the ventilation is as yet imperfectly restored in the deep workings. The wounded are improving.

FLOODS AND STORMS.

A heavy snowstorm burst over the Leek district on Wednesday morning. The snow came down quickly from six till eight o'clock, and the ground was covered a couple of inches deep. Owing to the heavy rains of the last few days the river Churnet has risen level with its banks, and an overflow is imminent. Heavy rain, varied with thunder and hailstorms, was general in North Wales on Wednesday. Between Rhyl and Denbigh, and for miles up the Vale of Clwyd, thousands of acres are submerged, and the floods are also very high between Bala and Dolgelley and in the Vale of Conway the farmers have suffered great loss, numbers of live stock being drowned. The Berwyn range of mountains enclosing the Vale of Llangollen was covered with snow on Wednesday morning, as the result of the first snowstorm in North Wales this season. The Great Western Railway Company sent a large staff of workmen on Wednesday with baulks of timber to repair a gap made by the present swollen state of the river in the banks of the Tone at Athelney, so as to prevent the increased flooding of their Yeovil branch line of railway. An attempt was also made to send a trolly through the flooded portion of the line, over which the traffic had been suspended for nearly a fortnight, but it soon came to grief, showing that the permanent way has been injured. Another heavy storm has broken over the neighbourhood.—At a meeting of the Somersetshire drainage commissioners, held on Wednesday afternoon, some very distressing reports were presented as to the effects of the disastrous floods in various localities within the jurisdiction of the commissioners. It was stated that the floods had not been so high as recently for the last 50 years. One commissioner attributed the inundation to the existence of shoals in the river Parret, which dammed back the water and caused the rives to overflow its banks. After some discussion, it was agreed to offer a premium of £300 for the best scheme for remedying the constantly recurring floods. The suggestion most favoured was that of an auxiliary river through the flooded districts, which the chairman, Sir Alexander Hood, stated would cost some tens of thousands of pounds.—One of the most destructive thunderstorms for many years passed over Kendal and the Lake districts early on Wednesday morning. It commenced with peals of thunder accompanied by dangerous flashes of lightning and showers of hail of extraordinary size. The electric fluid almost completely wrecked a cottage at Longpool.—A very violent storm passed over Goole on Wednesday afternoon. One of the pinnacles of the spire of the parish church was blown down and fell through the roof into the chancel, doing considerable damage. It is many years since so violent a storm visited Goole. It was not, however, of long duration. At Darlington on Wednesday a storm of wind and rain prevailed, accompanied by thunder and vivid lightning. The Teesdale hills were covered with snow. As a result of the heavy rainfall during the last few days in the valley of the Upper Thames the river in the Windsor district rose several inches on Wednesday, and is again beginning to encroach upon the land. On Tuesday night at Carrickfergus a fishing boat was capsized in Belfast Lough during a squall, and three out of the seven occupants of the boat were drowned. The survivors managed to cling to the boat and were picked up by the crew of an inward bound vessel, named the *Bellwood*, who heard their cries. The men were five hours in their perilous position, and were much exhausted. They were landed at Belfast on Wednesday. The deceased men were all married, and each has left a widow and children. A severe thunderstorm, accompanied by heavy hail and rain, passed over the Waterford coast on Wednesday evening, doing much damage to property. Several houses were blown down, and a number of trees were torn up by the roots. The harbour at Waterford was crowded with shipping, many of the vessels having sustained severe damage. Some of the cross-channel steamers were considerably overdue on Wednesday night.

THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW.

The new Lord Mayor, Mr. Alderman Knight, commenced his mayoralty on Thursday with the usual procession from the Guildhall to Westminster. The morning opened with bright sunshine, and gave promise of a fine day for the civic pageant, but before the procession started the sky was overcast, and the weather had become cold and bleak. In spite of these unfavourable circumstances, however, crowds assembled in the streets long before the time fixed for the departure of the procession from Guildhall. In Fore-street and adjacent thoroughfares in the Ward of Cripplegate the crowd was very large, this being the ward to which the new Lord Mayor belongs, and where the decorations were especially elaborate. Fore-street was one long vista of Venetian masts of a light blue colour, bearing elegantly-assorted trophies of flags. At the Moorgate-street end of the street was a handsome triumphal arch, upholstered in crimson cloth, draped with light blue material and fringed with gold. On either side were gilded statues and the structure was further adorned with bannerettes of every description and colour. The words, "By industry we flourish" were emblazoned on one side, and on the reverse "Welcome Lord Mayor of London." At Cripplegate-buildings flowers and plants were utilised for the adornment of the houses, and here, too, was a model of old Cripplegate, the portholes, portcullis, double-beamed and iron-bound gates, and the turreted tops of the flanking walls, making the illusion as nearly perfect as possible. An address was presented to the Lord Mayor at this point by the Ward Club. At Red-cross-street handsome galleries of seats were erected, and at the end of the same street was a trophy in honour of the victories of the Egyptian campaign. Opposite the Aldersgate-street railway station a pretty triumphal arch was erected; flags of all nations were hung from the Manchester Hotel, and as far as the Meat Market there was the same profusion of colour. From this point there were no decorations of any moment. The route of the procession was through Guildhall-yard, Gresham-street, Aldermanbury, Fore-street, Wood-street, Cheapside, Poultry, Cornhill, Threadneedle-street, Bartholomew-lane, Lothbury, Moorgate-street, Fore-street, Redcross-street, Barbican, Long-lane, Giltspur-street, Old Bailey, Ludgate-hill, Fleet-street, Strand, Charing-cross, Whitehall, Parliament-street. It returned by way of the Victoria Embankment to Guildhall, and on its return was followed by the Ambassadors, her Majesty's Ministers of State, the nobility, the judges, and other persons of distinction invited to the banquet at the Guildhall.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 9—10, 1882.

THE LORD MAYOR'S BANQUET.

The reception of her Majesty's Ministers at the Guildhall Banquet on Thursday night was cordial and generous. From the circumstances of the case the occasion was to a large extent divested of political significance. It is usual to look to the declarations of leading members of the Government on Lord Mayor's Day, after the silence or the skirmishing of the autumn, for signs of the policy of the immediate future. At present, however, the House of Commons is not only in session, but is engaged in a controversy of supreme constitutional importance. The centre of political interest is at Westminster, and not in the City. But even if the Prime Minister and his colleagues had been desirous of making some statements, in reply to the Lord Mayor's addresses, which they could not conveniently make in their places in Parliament, the subject forced by the urgency of events into the forefront of their speeches was one appealing to the patriotic sentiment of the nation and overriding party sentiments, whether of jealousy or triumph. The brilliant successes of the British arms in Egypt are achievements for which the country is grateful to and proud of the Government. Mr. Gladstone himself disclaimed any appropriation of this glory to the party which he leads. It was as the Ministers of the Crown, representing the executive power in the State, wielding the resources of the Empire, and putting into action the spirit of the people that Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues were welcomed at the Guildhall on Thursday night. The welcome was not the less warm because many—possibly even the majority—of those there assembled were out of sympathy, on merely political grounds, with the Liberal Administration. Conservatism has been for many years past a growing power in the City of London, as was conspicuously shown during the disasters of the general election of 1880, and not a few even among the Liberals of the Municipality look with watchful suspicion on the movements of a Ministry which is pledged to "reform" the existing corporation and to give a wide extension to municipal institutions in the metropolis. The Prime Minister with characteristic courage and without such a challenge as was addressed to him twelve months ago by the late Lord Mayor, touched upon this burning question. His efforts, however, to induce the majority of the Corporation to take a sanguine view of the threatened revolution met, if it is reasonable to judge from the demeanour of the assembly, with very limited success. But even the anxieties which torture civic bosoms did not avail to deaden the ancient sympathy of the City with the honour and the achievements of the British Army and Navy. Lord Northbrook and Mr. Childers, whose administrative capacity is recognized as having had no small share in the Egyptian victories, obtained an unstinted meed of applause. The Secretary for War, in particular, touched a chord which never fails to move popular feeling in the great hall where Chatham and the younger Pitt and Canning so often appealed to English patriotism. The 13th of September, now marked in the national memory as the date of the victory of Tel-el-Kebir, is, as Mr. Childers reminded his audience, already memorable in the annals of the Army for more than one exploit fruitful in fame as in political consequence. The glory of the Egyptian campaign may not be claimed as a party possession; but its effect must practically turn to the advantage of the Ministry and the party in power.—*Times.*

The *Standard* says:—The speeches at the Guildhall Banquet on Thursday night were a little disappointing. Two circumstances materially tended to this result. The Civic Festival this year had a formidable rival in the House of Commons, which has been treated to the unaccustomed pleasures of an Autumn Session; and it was also known beforehand that the Prime Minister could not, in his capacity of guest of the Lord Mayor, make any announcement of novelty or importance. There was, too, a certain consciousness of depression in the conditions under which the feast was held. Guildhall entertainments, given by the First Magistrate of the City of London, there will again be, but Lord Mayor's Day will never again be celebrated in the same fashion as it was yesterday. There will, no doubt, be a colossal dinner next year, but there will be no previous procession to Westminster. The Judges will be sitting at the new Law Courts in the Strand, and the Chambers in Westminster Hall whither Lord Mayors have year after year gone in state will possibly have been transformed into the rendezvous of Grand Committees of the House of Commons. The Prime Minister, indeed, gave the Lord Mayor an assurance that whatever changes might come over the government of the City of London, the historic glories of the Guildhall would remain untouched. He even expressed a doubt whether the period of municipal reform had yet arrived, or whether it was destined to arrive at all. But the announcement did not suffice to dispel the feeling of gloom that seemed to prevail. The hospitality was more lavish than ever, and the dinner singularly good. The speech of the Prime Minister was a finished specimen of eloquence, but it was delivered out of due time. The remarks with which the Lord Mayor proposed the health of Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues took precedence of the proposal of the health of the Representatives of Foreign Powers, and of the Lord Chancellor. The reason of this departure from customary usage was, we presume, that Mr. Gladstone was anxious to get back to the House of Commons. This inversion of the normal order of things could not fail to show itself in other ways. Indeed, the stars in their courses opposed the success of the banquet, and Ministers, like the Lord Mayor himself, had to contend against a continuation of adverse circumstances which the most lavish hospitality and the most generous sentiments could not effectually overcome.

The *Daily News* says:—The banquet at the Guildhall on Thursday nearly coincides with a remarkable anniversary. In the course of a few weeks Mr. Gladstone will have completed his fiftieth year of Parliamentary service. What to Mr. Gladstone is a long personal reminiscence is to observers a long chapter of history. The statesman who began his official career as the colleague of Wellington and Peel is now the colleague of Lord Hartington and Mr. Chamberlain. The long reach of time over which his political life extends could not be more remarkably illustrated. History does not recall a more remarkable period in all that concerns the development of English greatness and happiness; and with full recollection of the great figures with which it is crowded, it is not, we believe, an exaggeration to say that the most remarkable is that of Mr. Gladstone. His special gifts make him essentially the man of his time. That era of economic statesmanship, which Lord Beaconsfield, though he had little affinity with it, recognised as beginning with Lord Shelburne, and which had its development in Huskisson and Peel, culminated in Mr. Gladstone. It has been his fortune to witness and to play a large part in the conduct of two social revolutions, for so the great changes which have followed the Constitutional reforms of 1832 and 1867 may without exaggeration be described. The former transferred predominant power in England from the upper to the middle classes; the latter made it the inheritance of the whole nation. Mr. Gladstone entered the House of Commons immediately after the passing of the first Reform Bill. Political accident made another Minister the legislative instrument of giving effect to the second. But in the work of social and economic adaptation to the new conditions established in 1832 Mr. Gladstone played a great part; in those which have followed, or within the course of a few years are likely to follow from the political enfranchisement of 1867, he may be said to have almost the sole part. He has had valuable aid from able colleagues, but the initiative and accomplishment, and the execution of the work through all its processes have been and are likely to be his.

MR. GLADSTONE AT THE GUILDHALL.

On Thursday the Lord Mayor entertained her Majesty's Ministers, the Foreign Ambassadors, and a distinguished assemblage of guests at dinner at the Guildhall. Lord Northbrook, responding to the toast of the Navy, spoke of their contribution to the recent successes in Egypt. Mr. Childers, acknowledging the toast of the Army, dwelt upon the victories in the past obtained on the same date as the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir.

Mr. Gladstone, speaking for her Majesty's Ministers, said two years ago, when from this place I returned thanks for the very same toast you have now been pleased to drink. I had to lay before you the great anxiety which then weighed upon our minds in connection with the peace of the Levant. Since that time the difficulties which then weighed upon us have disappeared. The territorial questions raised under the Treaty of Berlin have been settled in such a manner that they no longer constitute a menace to the peace of Europe, and the settlement has given satisfaction to the just aspirations of many persons entitled to the privileges of freedom and qualified to turn them to the purposes of order and social prosperity. (Cheers.) At that time, likewise, it was the duty of my noble and learned friend, the Lord Chancellor, to point to the growing state of disorder in Ireland, and to assure you that we should not be wanting in our attempts, either by the means which the law placed in our hands at the time, or by making further demands upon Parliament, proportionate to the necessities of the case, to vindicate the authorities of the law, which is the very base of social order, and in which the humblest member of society is interested even more than the highest. (Cheers.) Well, I pass on from the festival in the Guildhall of the 9th of Nov., 1880, to the 9th of Nov., 1881. At that time, if I cast my eyes over the sea, much already had been accomplished. The settlement of these territorial questions to which I have adverted, and the peace of Eastern Europe and of the Levant was, as I might say, secured. (Cheers.) But the great alarm, the great anxiety of a domestic character which we had suffered in the former year was not allayed, but aggravated, at the moment I addressed you in 1881. For not only at that time had the movements dispersed over Ireland adverse to the law, adverse to the fulfilment of contracts, and therefore striking at the base of social order, continued, but they had assumed an aggravated character, and the question really was in that island at that moment, whether the whole fabric of society was to remain upon its ancient foundations or whether it was to be broken up. My Lord Major, we had not simply to use with vigour and determination the powers which the Legislature had accorded us, but while we made use of these powers, we relied more confidently, under the blessing of God, upon those measures of justice which we had endeavoured to introduce, and which Parliament had been pleased to pass. To them we looked as the foundation, as we hope, of greater harmony between the different orders of society, and as the best guarantee for the peace of that island and for the security and happiness of this Empire. (Cheers.) We were then, I say, engaged in that great contest. Twice it was my duty and my fate, within the walls of this noble and ancient hall to point to its grave and menacing character, and at the same time to express a sanguine hope that the powers which we should be enable to bring into action, supported as we were by the unanimous sentiment of the nation, would be more than equal to the great work by which we were confronted at that time. Together with these solicitudes at home, we had likewise a growing and dangerous complication in Egypt. Interesting and important as that country is in itself, it is still more important on account of its immediate relation to the great highway now established between Europe and the East, and still more interesting to us on account of the obligations of honour and duty which, under specific arrangements, we had undertaken with reference to the ruler and to the institutions of that country. (Cheers.) Since November 9, 1881, in all points I rejoice to say that the horizon, that the sky, has greatly and happily been cleared. (Cheers.) Nor do I think, my Lord Mayor, it would be improper that, even in this great commercial city, I should point with sympathy and with concern to the great distress and severe trials which at that period weighed upon the cultivators of the soil throughout this land. When I look at the present state of things, and without speaking of the Government—for in this country Governments may come and go and the country be little the better or the worse, such is the strength of the nation in itself and such is the richness of the provisions that within itself it contains for the discharge of every political duty which may be incumbent upon it—(cheers)—I rejoice to say that it has pleased Providence to grant to us in great abundance and in all their variety the rich resources of the soil. (Cheers.) I see with thankfulness that the great portion of the community with which you, the commercial men of England, are in close sympathy, the farmers of the land, those who draw from the soil the subsistence it affords us, are with reviving energy and with brighter hopes addressing themselves to the prosecution of their ancient, useful, and indispensable industry (Cheers.) When I look across the Channel to Ireland, the change is yet more marked. The battle that was then being fought, I may venture to say, is in a great part won. For the question then was, whether the foundations of social order were to be broken up. I venture to say that they are now in little danger. Contracts which were then being refused are now being acknowledged. The doctrines of resistance to the law, which were then rife throughout the land, are now scarcely heard. The catalogue of offences, which was then so formidable, is now greatly contracted. This is not the place to trouble you with statistics; but one or two figures are so simple and so significant that I cannot refrain from laying them before you. If I go back for six months—to the month of March, 1882—I find that at that time the agrarian outrages of Ireland, including among them what are called threatening letters, were, for that month, 531 in number, and for the month of October, 1881, immediately preceding your festival of last year, they were about the same—511. Throughout the whole of that winter it was a desperate, at least, it was an arduous, perhaps, even a doubtful struggle, but the operation of remedial measures was gradually taking hold of the minds of the people of Ireland, and they were acquiring the conviction that there was in the minds of the people of this country a desire to do them justice. (Cheers.) And I should not be fair and equitable if I did not record my conviction that some of those who had been betrayed and seduced into the doctrines of illegality have come to a better mind, and, since then, have arrived at the conviction that they have not to look upon this country otherwise than as a friendly and sisterly nation, and have come to the belief that in the observance of the law, and in a just and legitimate endeavour to amend the law, is to be found the best specific for whatever may be yet required to supply the wants and to mitigate the remaining difficulties and sorrows of Ireland. (Cheers.) But, my Lord Mayor, these agricultural outrages which in October, 1881, were 511, and in March, 1882, remained about the same—for although they were a little more I will take them as the same—had in the month of October, 1882, within a few days of the time at which I am now permitted to address you, sunk to 111, or about one-fifth of the highest point to which they had previously reached—(cheers)—and there is, as I have already stated, along with this enormous decrease, a total change in the character of that country as regards agrarian crime, a new tone and sentiment going abroad among the people, and a disposition, as I believe, to seek in obedience to the law, and in respect for existing institutions, the amelioration which they may still think their lot requires. There may be in Ireland, and there may be in England, and there may be in Scotland—in Ireland probably more, as the result of the calamities of its previous history—opinions and desires that can never be fulfilled; but if our Irish fellow-subjects are but content to walk in the ways of legality, this country is free enough, and strong enough, and generous enough to entertain in a friendly and kindly spirit every demand that they may make; and through the free discussion of the British Parliament and the strength of our institutions, and the perfect publicity in the communications of opinions from man to man throughout the whole community, is strong enough—I am firmly convinced—for the settlement of every political controversy, and for bringing it either to a completely satisfactory, or, at least, to some fair and tolerable issue. (Cheers.) I record with thankfulness the change, and I must also record with thankfulness the remarkable achievements of our gallant fellow-countrymen in Egypt. (Cheers.) This is not the place, after what you have heard from the Ministers immediately concerned, and this is not the occasion for me to do more than to express my firm conviction that the whole of these transactions—the great power that was displayed, the rapidity and efficiency of action, the perfectness of organisation, the union of heart and hand in all the services, the total absence of jealousy, the unfailing performance of duty by every man from the highest to the lowest, and that in the best and most gallant manner—render this Egyptian campaign, brief as it has been, memorable in the history of the country, and will secure it a lasting place in your grateful recollection. (Cheers.) Having drawn these comparisons, I hope in not too sanguine a tone, and certainly without wilful exaggeration, I also admit that we must not be too confident of the future. The vast expansion of this country, the ramifications of its interests all over the globe, the uncertainty of human affairs, expose you at every point, and expose you at every moment to new and recurring anxieties. We have taken too much, as a great nation, upon our hands, to expect to lead a very tranquil life. No trouble almost can touch the family of man that does not reach, in its practical operation, within the circuit of this little island. But, my Lord Mayor, I will venture to say, as you have referred to coming measures, that I look forward to them with cheerful anticipation, and I am satisfied that if the City of London has in them a special interest, that special interest will be so reconciled through the wisdom of the Legislature with the general interests and desires of the country that, after you shall have undergone—if, indeed, you ever do undergo, for it has been a long time spoken of—the alterations to which reference has been made, you will have no reason to regret the result, but you will still meet in this ancient hall from year to year, as representatives of the first municipal community in the world, strengthened, as I hope, and invigorated by whatever changes may come upon you, associated as you have ever been with the history of the country, able as you have ever been found to meet the demands of public duty. And not only for you, my Lord Mayor, but for the country at large. While I am aware that this enormous power, and the varied expansions of this power all over the world must bring upon us great responsibilities, and must call upon us from time to time for serious efforts, yet after a long experience of life, and without being blind to the many deficiencies and faults which we, the people of this nation, may in our own particular forms exhibit, retain a cheerful and sanguine confidence that the glory of England is not a transitory thing—(cheers)—but that you will hand it down from generation to generation, that you will never lose its ancient traditions, and that you will more and more, as I trust, be enabled to vindicate your fame, and to prove your power in association with liberty and justice to the latest period of the history of the world. (Cheers.)

Other speeches followed.

PROVINCIAL MAYORS.

The following gentlemen were elected Mayors in the various towns in England and Wales on Thursday:—

Abingdon, Edward Payne (L); Accrington, John Lightfoot (L); Andover, Councillor John Moore (C); Arundel, Alderman Watkins; Banbury, William Johnson (L), re-elected; Barnsley, C. Brady (L), re-elected; Barnstaple, Richard Ashton (L); Barrow-in-Furness, John Fell (L); Bath, — Cosslam (L); Bedford, Luke Cherry (L); Beverley, Edmund Crosskill (L), third time; Bewdley, Whittington Landon (C); Birkenhead, T. S. Deakin (C); Birmingham, William White (L); Blackburn, Councillor Hoyle (C); Blackpool, Henry Salt (C), re-elected; Bootle, J. Webster (L); Bolton, E. Harwood (C); Boston, William Bedford (L); Bradford, Frederick Priestman (L); Bridgwater, William Holland (L); Bridport, Alderman Reynolds (L); Brighton, Alderman Cox (L); Bristol, Joseph Weston (L), re-elected; Buckingham, James Harrison (C), re-elected; Burnley, Alderman Fielding (L); Burton-on-Trent, George Higginson Allsopp (C); Bury (Lancashire), Alderman Duckworth (L); Bury St. Edmunds, Thomas Ridley (L); Calne, H. Wilkins; Cambridge, Henry Rance (C), third time; Canterbury, Alfred James Beer (L); Cardiff, George Stone (L); Carlisle, Richard Ferguson (C), re-elected; Carmarthen, James Jenkyn Jones (C), re-elected; Carnarvon, Alderman Rees (C), re-elected; Cheltenham, George Parsonage (C); Chester, Sir Thomas Gibbons Frost (L); Chesterfield, Alderman Higginbottom, re-elected; Chichester, Councillor Church (C); Clitheroe, Alderman James Garnet (C); Colchester, Alderman J. B. Harvey (L), re-elected; Conway, W. Jones (C); Coventry, A. S. Tomson (L), second year; Crewe, John Ainsworth (L); Darlington, William Robinson (L); Darwen, William Entwistle (L), third time; Denbigh, John Harrison Jones (L); Derby, Robert Russell (L); Devizes, Richard Hill (C); Devonport, George Rolston (L), re-elected; Dewsbury, Samuel Fothergill (L); Doncaster, Arthur Smith (C); Dorchester, Henry Durden (C); Dover, R. Dickeson (L), fourth time; Dudley, Job Garratt (C), re-elected; Durham, James Fowler (L), third time; Evesham, William Gardner (C); Exeter, Samuel Jones (C); Falmouth, Thomas Randell (L); Faversham, John Anderson (C); Flint, R. Muspratt (L); Folkestone, John Sherwood (L); Godalming, D. Stedman (C); Glastonbury, Alderman Bishop (L); Gloucester, Jesse Sessions (L); Gravesend, George Edmonds (C). Grimsby, Councillor Jackson (L), re-elected; Guildford, Alderman Triggs (C), re-elected; Halifax, Nathan Whitley (L), third time; Hanley, J. Emery (L); Hartlepool, John Horsley (L), re-elected; Harwich, Alderman John Watts (C); Hastings, Councillor Revill (L), re-elected; Hereford, M. Scobie (L); Hertford, William Warrener (C); Huddersfield, John Figg Brigg (L), third time; Hull, John Leak (L), third time; Huntingdon, Alderman Marshall (C); Hythe, J. Cobay (L), re-elected); Ipswich, Alderman Rush (L); Keighley, B. Brigg (L); Kidderminster, G. Grosvenor (C); King's Lynn, William Patrick (C); Kingston-on-Thames, J. Nightingale (C); Lancaster, Joseph Fenton (C); Launceston, C. Cowlard (C); Leamington, William Harding (C), third time; Leeds, Councillor Woodhouse (L); Leicester, Francis Hewitt (L); Leominster, Michael Ellwood (L), re-elected; Lewes, W. Crosskey (L); Liverpool, W. Radcliffe (C); Louth (Lincolnshire), Joseph Morton (L); Ludlow, John Crosse (C); Lymington, Henry Badcock (C); Macclesfield, John Wadsworth (L), re-elected; Maidenhead, W. Farr (C), re-elected; Maidstone, Alfred Pryer (C); Maldon, Councillor Warren (C); Manchester, Alderman Hodgkinson (L); Margate, John Bayley (L.C), re-elected; Maryborough, E. Hayes (C); Middlesbrough, Isaac Fidler (L); Monmouth, George Tippins (C), third time; Morpeth, Alderman Chirney (C); Neath, Rowland Thomas (L); Newark, Robert Henry (L); Newbury, Councillor Joseph Hopson (L); Newcastle-under-Lyne, Robert Mayer (C); Newcastle, T. Gibson (L); Newport (Isle of Wight), Morris Morgan (L); Newport (Monmouthshire), Oliver Goss (L); Northampton, William Coulson (C); Norwich, C. Gilman (C); Nottingham, Alderman Hindley (L); Oldham, Samuel Ogden (L); Oxford, Alfred Wheeler (L); Oswestry, W. Weaver (C), re-elected; Penryn, Michael Lavin (L); Penzance, H. Victor (C); Peterborough, J. Whitwell (L); Plymouth, John Shelley (L); Poole, Reginald Aldridge (L); Portsmouth, Alderman Pink (C), fourth time; Preston, Alderman Girlick (C); Queenborough, James Bills; Reading, Blackall Symonds (C); Redhill, Alderman Field (C), re-elected; Retford, Councillor Tomlinson (L); Richmond, George Roper (C), re-elected; Ripon, Councillor Lee (L); Rochdale, John Harley (L); Rochester, James Naylor (L), Mayor in 1863; Rotherham, Edwin Kelsey (L); Ruthin, E. Roberts (L); Ryde, Alderman Harrington (C), second time; Rye, F. Bellingham (C); Saffron Walden, Councillor Robson; Salford, Alderman Husband (C); Salisbury, Charles Moody (L); Scarborough, W. Barry, (L); Sheffield, Michael Hunter, jun. (L); Shrewsbury, George Eddowes (C); Southampton, W. H. Davis (C), re-elected; Southport, James Wood, LL.B. (L); South Molton, John White (L), eighth time; South Shields, John Wardle (C); Stafford, Charles Dudley (L), re-elected; Staleybridge, Samuel Warhurst (C); Stamford, Alderman Nicholson (C); St. Ives (Cornwall), J. Carnick (C); St. Ives (Hunts), Henry Goodman (L); Stockport, James Leigh (L), re-elected; Stockton-on-Tees, Thomas Nelson (L); Stoke-on-Trent, Alderman Campbell (C), re-elected; Stratford-on-Avon, W. Colborne (C); Sunderland, John Wayman (C); Swansea, Alderman Daniel (C); Taunton, J. Barrett (L); Tewkesbury, Michael Craysmart (L); Tiverton, Thomas Ford (L), re-elected; Torrington, James Balsdon (L); Truro, William Martin (L); Tynemouth, J. Hedley (L); Wakefield, George Mander (L); Wallingford, Richard Wilder (C); Walsall, B. Beebee (C); Warrington, John Crossfield (L); Warwick, Major Fosbery (C); Wells, John Kelway (C); Welshpool, Samuel Salter, (L); West Bromwich, Reuben Farley (L); Weymouth, R. Howard (L), re-elected; Wigan, Henry Park (C); Wilton, G. Wilson (C); Winchester, W. Coles (L); Windsor, J. Devereux (C), third time, second in succession; Wolverhampton, Frank Gibbons (C); Worcester, T. Corbett (L); Wrexham, Yeoman Stracham (C); Yarmouth, Charles Aldred (C), fifth time; York, Thomas Varcy (L).

EGYPT.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Thursday:—

The extreme tension of public feeling which unfortunately already exists is continually being increased by the over-zeal of partisans on either side. To-day a servant, who had gone on behalf of some prisoner to Mr. Broadley, was arrested on leaving that counsel's chambers. Complaint being at once made to Sir E. Malet, the matter is receiving immediate attention and careful inquiry. Arabi in prison is really becoming a greater curse to the people than when he was at large, and the colossal blunder of a trial is now almost universally admitted.

The person arrested is a Syrian clerk to a certain Anin Bey Shamsi, a deputy and a notorious bad character, now in prison at Zagazig for complicity in the rebellion. The Syrian had just returned from Syria, and was considered to be compromised. He was therefore arrested as soon as he was found, but, it seems, at quite another quarter of the town than that in which Mr. Broadley's house is situated, and was deported from the country on board a steamer going to Syria. The Prefect of Police states that he was quite unaware that the prisoner had been to see Mr. Broadley, and the Government claim a right to banish such non-Egyptian subjects as they consider likely to disturb order. Zagazig having been mentioned to me as a place where an underground dungeon existed, I have made inquiries there, and have to repeat that the assertion is absolutely untrue. Ninet's fresh allegations are contradicted, so far as regards the Cairo prisons, by Sir C. Wilson, and, considering the character of the two men, no further proof is required.

The advisability of Lord Dufferin's mission and its very difficult nature are fully recognised by all—by none more than by those principally concerned. For six months life in Egypt has been subject to a continuous strain of excitement. Those who have been most behind the curtain are the most ready to recognise the advantage of contrasting their own views with those of others who can judge from a necessarily more independent standpoint. Opinions, however carefully and honestly formed, are apt under excitement to develop into prejudices—or, at all events, are considered so by those who mistake ignorance of facts for impartiality of opinion. Moreover, Cairo has become, for the moment, a political centre of more importance than Constantinople. Sir E. Malet has discharged the duties of his difficult position with tact and ability which have excited the highest admiration. But, with that loyalty to his trust and disregard of self which characterise him, he recognised these facts, and himself suggested the course which has been adopted by the Government and confirmed by public opinion. It may be hoped that one early result of the mission will be to define the position of the Khedive and his Government. At present, it cannot be denied that their position is not an enviable one. If they venture on any single act, such as arranging the trial of a prisoner, or proceeding to form an army, they are told that they are setting up pretensions to independence. If, on the other hand, in a matter of international importance they follow implicitly English advice, they are twitted with being hopelessly helpless. We disband their army, and tell them that the Soudan is their business, not ours. We upset their legal procedure, and leave them to invent another. We withdraw our Controller, and leave them to arrange matters with the French. Under Ismail the Egyptian Government was described as despotism tempered by consuls; the present system is anarchy tempered by protests.

THE INDIAN VISITORS.

It may be doubted whether anything which our Indian visitors will see during their stay in England will impress them so agreeably as Thursday's show. It was a grand *tamasha* of the very sort that suits the Asiatic taste; plenty of noise, a huge crowd, lots of gay banners, loud music, and a moving panorama of more or less curious objects:—

Having thus achieved such a successful start in the entertainment of our guests, it is to be hoped that every effort will be made to adapt the rest of the programme of amusement to their idiosyncrasies. To endeavour to improve their minds by taking them to public institutions, such as the British Museum, would simply bore them to death. They would no doubt conceal their martyrdom, and profess to be greatly pleased and interested; Indian politeness would easily accomplish that amount of hypocrisy. They might also be equal to feigning pleasure after being taken to hear a Parliamentary debate, and should Mrs. Leo Hunter be so fortunate as to get a few of them to her house they will be quite effusive in their affectation of delight. But if it be desired to give them real enjoyment which they will talk of hereafter to their fellow-countrymen, the less they see of the sad pleasures of society the better. Spectacular display is the thing to fascinate Oriental natures; glitter, colour, and processional pomp always come home to their tastes. Unhappily, at this season of the year, our climate does not lend itself to such shows; the general deficiency of sunshine, not to speak of the probability of heavy rain, or dense fog, tells sadly against outdoor spectacles. We must, therefore, content ourselves with makeshifts, and even these are hard to find. If it could be managed, a grand firework display at the Crystal Palace, including the bombardment of Alexandria, would be one method of dispelling the *ennui* of Sutherland House. As for theatres, we fear that the high-class histrionics would be quite thrown away, but the entertainment in which the "still growing" Amazon Queen figures would, we think, be thoroughly enjoyed. Of course the Zoological Gardens, Woolwich Arsenal, and the regalia at the Tower will be inspected, and, since the sight of gold is pleasant to Asiatics, perhaps the stores of that metal at the Bank of England and the Mint might be exhibited.—*Globe.*

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

BALMORAL CASTLE, THURSDAY.

The Queen walked in the morning yesterday with Princess Beatrice, and her Majesty drove in the afternoon, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe and the Hon. Victoria Baillie. Colonel Sir John M'Neill, K.C.M.G., V.C., who returned from Egypt with his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, arrived at the Castle and had an audience of her Majesty. Sir John M'Neill had the honour of dining with the Queen. The Earl of Northbrook left the Castle.

The 41st birthday of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was celebrated at Sandringham on Thursday with the usual festivities. The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh and a large party are the guests of the Prince and Princess. The church bells of all the towns adjacent to Sandringham rang merry peals in honour of the occasion. At Windsor the bells of St. George's Chapel and St. John's Church rang in the morning, and Royal salutes were also fired from the Long Walk and Virginia Water. The usual rejoicings were observed in London. The drum-major, doing duty with the detachment of the 1st Battalion of the Coldstream Guards which mounted the Queen's guard in the morning, wore his state dress in honour of the occasion, and the band of the regiment played a choice selection in the courtyard of St. James's Palace, adjacent to Marlborough House. The Admiralty flag was hoisted on the Admiralty-office in Whitehall, while the Royal Standard floated on the Royal United Service Institute in Whitehall-yard and other buildings. The bells of some of the West-end churches gave forth merry peals. The old pensioners of Chelsea Hospital were regaled with old English fare. In the evening, soon after dusk, the principal club houses at the West-end were partially illuminated in honour of the day. The leading West-end theatres displayed different devices, and the royal tradesmen illuminated their respective establishments. In the Middle Temple Hall, on Thursday night, "The health of the Prince of Wales" was drunk, his Royal Highness being senior bencher. The royal tradesmen celebrated the birthday by their 24th annual dinner at Willis's Rooms. About 250 sat down.

The Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, it is now stated, will leave Scotland on Tuesday next, arriving at Windsor Castle a day earlier than was expected.

Princess Mary Adelaide and the Duke of Teck honoured the Baroness and Mr. Burdett-Coutts with their company at dinner on Thursday night in Stratton-street. Sir Garnet and Lady Wolseley and a distinguished party, including Sir Stafford and Lady Northcote, were invited to meet her Royal Highness and the Duke.

Count Munster returned to the German Embassy, Carlton House-terrace, on Thursday, from Hanover.

The Duke and Duchess of Bedford and Ladies Russell have arrived in Eaton-square from Woburn Abbey.

The Earl of Northbrook has returned to the Admiralty from Balmoral Castle, where his lordship has been staying as Minister in Attendance on the Queen.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE OCCUPATION OF EGYPT.

Sir C. DILKE was subjected to a brisk cross-examination from various quarters as to the trial of Arabi Pacha. In answer to Mr. Bourke, he repeated that the trial would be conducted by court-martial, under special conditions agreed to by the Egyptian Government at the instance of Her Majesty's Government, and he had no reason to believe that the prisoner's counsel were dissatisfied with them. The charges were under the Ottoman Military Code, which he believed would be found in the public libraries here, but he promised to obtain a translation from Egypt. In answer to Mr. Labouchere, he declined to enter into questions of Egyptian law, and repeated that the Government was not responsible for the conduct of the trial. Sir H. Wolff and Sir W. Lawson asked questions as to the competency of the Government to pardon Arabi if sentenced to capital punishment, and Mr. Gorst and Mr. Dawson put other questions, but Sir C. Dilke desired that notice should be given. Mr. Gladstone was also questioned by Mr. Gorst, and said that the Government did not undertake to dictate to the Egyptian Government or to lay down rules for the trial, though they had expressed their views, and Mr. Gorst gave notice of his intention to ask whether the rule laid down by Lord Granville in the despatch of October 23 had been withdrawn, and Mr. Bourke, amid much cheering, gave notice that he would move that the House regrets that Arabi Pacha, after his unconditional surrender to a British officer, should have been handed over to be dealt with by an Egyptian tribunal. In answer to Sir H. Wolff, Mr. Gladstone said the object of Lord Dufferin's mission was to conduct the communications with the Egyptian Government respecting the future settlement of Egypt. He was not aware of any machinery for consulting the wishes of the Egyptian people. If any part of those arrangements were sufficiently complete before the prorogation, he would be glad to communicate it to the House, but at present he said he had no idea when the prorogation would occur.

THE CLOTURE.

The adjourned debate on the clôture was resumed by

Lord SANDON, who remarked that the Conservative party had always been ready to cooperate with the Government in putting down obstructive opposition, and the enormous importance apparently attached to the Resolution by the Government justified the apprehension and opposition of the Conservative party. He regarded the safeguards both of "adequate discussion" and the "evident sense of the House" as utterly inadequate, and it would have been infinitely more satisfactory and straightforward if it had been put into black and white that the evident sense was to be the sense of the majority. After commenting on the temptations to the Irish members held out by Mr. Gladstone in his speech of the previous day, he dwelt on the operation of the clôture in foreign countries, showing, with regard to France especially, that though adopted first by moderate men, its operation had led to the total extinction of free debate. As to tedious speaking, he showed from the pages of "Hansard" during the last two years that the Liberal party had been by far the greatest offenders.

Mr. G. RUSSELL and Mr. SLAGG joined in protesting on behalf of the members who were unable under the present system to catch the Speaker's eye as frequently as they desired, and Mr. Wodehouse gave a warm support to the Resolution, which, he thought, would tend to preserve the dignity and efficiency of Parliament. Mr. T. Bruce, on the other hand, held that the Resolution went far beyond the necessities of the case, and refused to believe that the power would be exercised with moderation either by the Liberal party or any other party.

Mr. COCHRAN-PATRICK spoke against the Resolution, and Mr. Jackson, on the same side, expressed his belief that the clôture was unnecessary to facilitate the Bills required by the country, and from the experience gained by a recent visit to the United States, entreated the House not to imitate the political institutions in vogue there.

Mr. STANTON supported the clôture as absolutely necessary for the transaction of business, and ridiculed the idea that Bills would be rushed through.

Mr. O'SHAUGHNESSY accepted the clôture by a bare majority in preference to two-thirds and also because it would mitigate the application of the subsequent Resolution against individual members. Moreover, he admitted the force of Mr. Gladstone's argument that without some power of shortening debates, it would be more difficult to pass measures of Irish reform.

Mr. E. CLARKE spoke at length against the Resolution, and, analyzing the Division List, maintained that there was no general sense of the House in favour of the Government.

Mr. W. FOWLER replied comprehensively to the various objections raised against the clôture, and ridiculed as unfounded the apprehensions and predictions of the Opposition.

Mr. S. LEIGHTON spoke against the resolution, and Mr. A. M'Arthur supported it, and, after some remarks from Mr. Warton, the debate was adjourned on the motion of Mr. O'Shea.

The House adjourned at five minutes to 12 o'clock.

SIR GARNET WOLSELEY AND THE ARMENIANS.—On Wednesday a deputation of representatives of the Armenian colony in England waited on Sir Garnet Wolseley at the War Office, and presented him with an address. The deputation was headed by Mr. Seth A. Apear, who stated that they saw in Sir Garnet the embodiment of the mighty arm of England, which, through his skill and genius, had strengthened and enhanced her influence in the East as well as in Europe. They were in hopes that whenever the opportunity arose this liberty-loving England would use her influence and power for the promotion of the happiness and welfare of their unhappy country, and that when the proper time came his active sympathy and aid would be generously accorded to their cause. He then presented the address. It spoke of the necessity of internal reforms in Turkey, and expressed satisfaction that the great principles of reform and regeneration embodied in Hatti-Sheriff and Hatti-Houmayouns, which have not been executed in their integrity, but which, on their promulgation, enabled Turkey to enter the comity of civilised nations, would now receive every attention. They were gratified to learn that at Sir Garnet's recent visit to the Armenian church at Cairo he recognised in the Armenians those mental and moral aptitudes without which no country could either be regenerated or put in the way of progress.—Sir Garnet Wolseley entered into conversation with several members of the deputation. He thanked them cordially for the address they had presented to him, and said he deeply sympathised with every word that had been said. He had frequently come into contact with Armenians, and he had been struck with their superiority over others. In Cyprus, when he had anything to do he had always employed Armenians, who were remarkable linguists, and distinguished for their intelligence and good conduct. Those who lived in England did not need to be assured of the sympathy of the country in their efforts to secure for the Armenians in the provinces they inhabited the opportunity of developing their qualities and virtues.

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LONDON, NOVEMBER 11–12, 1882.

THE "CLOTURE" DEBATE.

It cannot be denied, says the *Times*, that, notwithstanding the result, of Friday night's division, a numerical majority of the House of Commons are opposed to the first resolution and convinced that it is inexpedient and unwise. Wherever men exchange opinions beyond the sphere of party discipline, the first resolution is condemned as a violent and uncalled for innovation, certain to be mischievous in the precise degree in which it escapes being futile. Political life is swayed by a great variety of motives, and a man's action is frequently determined by an exaggeration almost as unconscious as the pressure that deflects the course of the skater. How each man who voted last night with the Government justifies his action is a matter for himself to decide; but that if every man had voted in accordance with the dictates of his unbiased judgment the first resolution would have been lost is a fact of which all the world has a right to take cognizance. There is no need, however, to rely upon this fact in order to condemn the actual majority as wholly unfitted to decide a question going to the root of the traditions of the House. If we grant that the majority is the measure of Liberal preponderance, and that the division shows the result of a fair stand-up fight, it still remains true that such a majority is not morally competent to impose upon the House of Commons rules which, in order to be effective, must command the cheerful assent of an overwhelming proportion of its members. The Decalogue itself would be a dead letter were the people of this country divided upon the expediency of obeying it in anything like the proportions in which the House of Commons last night went into the division lobbies. The newfangled doctrine that any majority, however small or by whatever means attained, is competent to do anything, however great, is repugnant alike to the whole spirit of English institutions, and to the observed facts of society and human nature. The power of a majority ought to be, and in the long run is, commensurate with its magnitude, and our institutions recognise this truth as fully as any abstract truth can be embodied in a working machine. We doubtless decide important questions of legislation by a majority which may be very small, but in that case the minority has always formally or informally effected compromises, and the change, however hardly fought, is small in relation to the common opinions of the two parties. But the clôture in its present form is meant to hand over a minority absolutely into the power of a majority which may outnumber it by no more than a single voice. The device will break down in practice in one way or another, even though the majority should be incarnate wisdom and the minority the embodiment of folly. It is merely an official victory, won in the teeth of numerous representatives of every section of Liberal opinion by the unrelenting use of the authority acquired by a singularly fortunate conjunction of circumstances. We can augur nothing good from a measure violent in itself and passed by what can only be described as moral violence. The circumstances of its origin belie anticipations of its wise and temperate use.

If the moral effect of such a decision as that of Friday night, says the *Morning Post* with reference to the division on the clôture, could be expected to lead to any practical results, then we might hope that the insufficiency of the majority which was obtained to justify a complete revolution in our parliamentary procedure might lead to a reconsideration of the expediency of the step which has been taken. But we can entertain no such anticipations. Those who insist that a bare majority in the House of Commons shall be all-powerful in closing discussion whenever they please are not likely to attach any importance to the fact that a very numerous minority in the House have protested against such an innovation. The fruits of a battle so long and so persistently fought are not likely to be thrown away by the victors, and we may expect to find the efficacy of the first resolution tested in curbing within what to Ministers may seem reasonable limits the discussions on those which remain. But it must not be supposed that the work still to be done will be rapidly disposed of. If Mr. Gibson's amendment had been accepted, then the Opposition would probably have offered little resistance to the remaining proposals of the Government, but the adoption of the clôture in its most dangerous form renders it necessary to oppose strenuously the further powers which Ministers declare to be essential for the abbreviation of the proceedings of the House of Commons. Argument and eloquence have proved ineffectual to avert the blow which threatens to destroy all liberty of speech in the House. If they could have been effectual we might have expected great results from the brilliant and powerful speech made on Friday evening by Mr. J. Cowen. But it is specially as a Liberal, or rather as an exponent of Radicalism, that his protest against the clôture will raise misgivings in the minds of those who have for months past been taught to believe that, under the new *régime*, Liberalism in all its phases will flourish and develop. Mr. Cowen, with clearer foresight, distinguished a far different prospect before him, and in eloquent language indicated to the House of Commons and the country the perils which threaten to overwhelm the institutions on which England has hitherto prided herself.

MR. GLADSTONE AT GUILDHALL.

The *Spectator* says that the view which Mr. Gladstone takes of our foreign affairs will not be considered by our more gloomy prophets optimistic, we should be sorry to deny. But by the nation at large—who see only the success with which we have exacted from Turkey the fulfilment of two of her engagements, and the rapid growth of our influence with the Porte since the suppression of Arabi's rebellion—it will certainly not be thought at all too sanguine. It is perfectly true, of course, that the supreme difficulty in the resettlement of Egypt, so far from having been solved, has, so far as we know, not yet been even attacked; and that on Lord Dufferin's clearness of sight and strength of purpose, our success or failure must probably depend. But the fact remains, that we have succeeded in effecting settlements between Turkey and Greece, and between Turkey and Montenegro, which two years ago threatened Europe with war; and that if we do not now find for Egypt a political *régime* as promising as the Treaty of Berlin has secured for Eastern Roumelia, it will not be for want of power to dictate any organisation on which we decide, but solely from the greater complexity of the case. Still, whatever can be done in Egypt by the most disinterested desire to promote the good government of the country, without sharing ourselves in the result, except so far as the safety of the Isthmus route may reward us for our pains, we may be quite certain that Mr. Gladstone's Government will do. And if that be not all we hope, it will, at any rate, be a great deal more than we should have ventured to hope a year ago, because it will not be embarrassed by the inconvenient interference of French Bondholders, and of a French Government which holds bondholders in awe. Hopeful as the Prime Minister's speech at Guildhall on Thursday was, it was the hopefulness of sober calculation and not the hopefulness of a fool's paradise, which it so skilfully expressed.

Much more satisfactory are Mr. Gladstone's utterances about the foreign responsibilities of England, declares the *Saturday Review*. His Irish sentiments, if persevered in and carried out in action, can lead to nothing but disaster; his sentiments on the relations of England to her dependencies and to the world at large are of exactly contrary promise. The strength of the nation was then insisted on. England was no longer small and little, or, if the favourite reminder of its littleness was repeated, it was in quite a new sense. "It contains within itself," Mr. Gladstone's hearers were told, "resources for the discharge of every political duty incumbent on it." The Englishman is "not to expect to lead a tranquil life," which in Midlothian he certainly was invited to expect, if only he would place Mr. Gladstone in power. Mr. Gladstone is now aware, though it has taken him nearly three years of Downing-street to learn it, that "the enormous power of the country must call upon it for serious efforts from time to time." The glory of England is to be saved from being transitory: her fame vindicated, her power proved. Glory, fame, power, interests of the country—surely these are new words in Mr. Gladstone's mouth. The change is indeed so extraordinary that it takes some time to accustom oneself to it. But with Mr. Childers somewhat gratuitously reminding the Spaniards that we mean to hold Gibraltar for ever, and with Lord Northbrook following suit, the transformation scene acquires reality, or at least consistency. It is too satisfactory for any man not to make a slight stretch of goodwill and a considerable effort of obliviscence, in order to accept it wholly. It is impossible to imagine sounder principles of general statesmanship than those which, for almost the first time in his life, Mr. Gladstone enunciated on Thursday. The insignificance of party squabbles; the importance of continuous attention (though Governments may come and Governments may go) to the glory, the fame, the power, the empire, the interests of England; the greatness of the country; the necessity of making efforts to sustain that greatness—these were the theme of so much of his speech as did not regard Ireland. It is a wonderful and blessed change. The power and glory of England, which Mr. Gladstone is so anxious to maintain, have not been attained by choking discussion. They will not be maintained by substituting a jarring federalism for a solid power.

THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS.

The triumph of the Democrats in the United States elections is, remarks the *Economist*, a most unexpected event, especially to the Republican leaders, and it may prove to be one of first-class importance:—

It does not, we imagine, as we shall presently argue, place the Democrats in power; but it does show that the great Republican Party, which for 22 years has governed the country with almost unbroken success, has lost its cohesion, and has, though possibly only for a time, worn out the popular liking. The vote is so very large, the majorities, especiallyin New York, being unprecedented, and the sectional distribution of the triumph so very wide, that it is evident a great number of the Republicans, and a still greater number of the classes which usually do not vote, have assisted to elect the Democratic candidates. That means that throughout the Union, in the North, West, South, and even East, the Republicans are so discredited, that rather than support their leaders the majority will restore Democrats to the control of the national affairs. They have not quite done this yet, because although the Democrats obtain a majority of at least 30 in the House of Representatives, they will be still in a minority in the Senate, and will be opposed by Mr. Arthur, the Republican President, who, though not disposed to be a rigidly upright ruler, is certain not to desert his party upon any important question. All that the Democrats can do, therefore, till 1885, will be to reduce taxation and expenditure, upon which points the House is absolute, and prevent any further progress in Republican legislation. They can, in fact, arrest the machine, but they cannot drive it their own way. Their return to power, for any length of time, could not fail to be followed by large results, one of which, in all probability, would be an effort to induce the Canadians to enter the Union. The conquest of Canada scarcely attracts any serious American politician, as the Union has no wish for an Ireland; but the admission of a willing Canada might be singularly attractive to the Democratic Party, which now that the slavery question is over might hope for a strong addition to its permanent senatorial strength from the extreme North. Many circumstances would tend, if Canada ever entered the Union, to make the Canadians Democrats rather than Republicans.

PARLIAMENTARY CONVERSIONS.

The history of the clôture resolution reveals some wonderful cases of conversion. In February last Mr. P. Macliver wrote to the *Times* to protest against the bare majority proposal, and to predict that if Government adhered to it the issue would be discomfiture and defeat:—

On Wednesday last the same Mr. P. Macliver rose in the House to assure the Opposition—truly enough—that the Ministerial party were not troubled with the rebellion of mutineers, and to support the bare majority resolution. What was the influence at work? Liberals who are in Mr. Macliver's plight think to vindicate their self-respect by protesting that they have received no word of menace or rebuke from the caucus. In some cases, no doubt, this is true. The wire-pullers have learned since they issued their famous circular that something is due to appearances. The true account of caucus activity is this. A little coterie of pushing politicians, who make organization their peculiar care, really control what purports to be a Federation of National Liberal Associations. Taking advantage of the ignorant fanaticism of certain susceptible constituencies, they give out, when supreme necessity arises, that certain points are test questions of sincere Liberalism. At present they conjure with the name of Mr. Gladstone. The member who dares to give effect by his vote to his dissent from their views knows that he will be held a traitor to his party and a despiser of the Prime Minister. It is this vague proscription, rather than personal denunciation, that is now relied on to keep members such as Mr. Macliver in the right way.—*St. James's Gazette.*

A PLAN FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT.

The *Spectator* is most desirous that the experiment of autonomy in Egypt should be tried; but unless England is to break faith in a most gross way, it must be under conditions which make the continuous good government of the people not only possible, but fairly certain; and there is but one plan which will secure the double end:—

The *Spectator* would, under the sanction of Europe, purchase the Sultan's rights; but would transfer them to the Queen, under a distinct written promise to make of Egypt an autonomous, though subordinate, State. It would sell all the unmanageable Khedivial domains, the State railways, and all State property available, and with the proceeds pay off the Bonds, at the rate of 75 per cent. of their nominal value—a proposal which would be instantly accepted by all except the Preference bondholders. It would dismiss, as leniently as might be, but firmly, all unnecessary Europeans in Egyptian State service, prohibit the employment of Foreign Asiatics, and select an Egyptian Premier of capacity to organize the administration. It would retain in Egypt a single agent, of the rank and type of Lord Dufferin, who, with the whole authority of the Protecting Power, would secretly advise with that Premier, and who would direct his efforts to two distinct ends—the adoption of a code of law which must not be violated; and the steadily severe punishment, not by dismissals, but by sentences of penal servitude, of every official, from the Commander-in-Chief to the lowest policeman, who accepted a bribe. This agent should advise only, and that as little as possible.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

BALMORAL CASTLE, FRIDAY.

The Queen walked in the morning yesterday with Princess Beatrice, and in the afternoon her Majesty drove, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe and the Dowager Marchioness of Ely. The Queen gave a ball in the evening to the servants and tenants of the Balmoral, Abergeldie, and Birkhall estates, in honour of the birthday of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Her Majesty and Princess Beatrice were present, attended by the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting. Colonel Sir John M'Neill had the honour of dining with the Queen, and left the Castle this morning.

Baron Mohrenheim, the newly-appointed Ambassador from the Imperial Court of Russia, has not left on his return to St. Petersburg as stated. His Excellency stayed some days at Eastwell Park with the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh previously to their Royal Highnesses going to Sandringham. His Excellency is still at Claridge's Hotel.

Count Karolyi returned to the Austrian Embassy, Belgrave-square, on Friday evening from Everingham, Yorkshire, where the Count has been staying on a visit to Lord and Lady Herries. The Countess and family have arrived from Vienna.

The Duke and Duchess of Westminster left Grosvenor House for Eaton Hall, Chester, on Friday.

The Duchess of St. Alban's arrived at Newtown Anner, her Grace's seat in Ireland, from Bestwood Park, Notts, early in the week.

The Countess of Gainsborough has returned from paying several visits in Ireland.

The Dowager Countess of Lonsdale left town on Friday for Cottesmore Hall, Oakham.

Viscount and Viscountess Chetwynd and Miss Chetwynd have arrived in town from the country.

Lord Coleridge was very much better on Friday night, and had been able to leave his bedroom during the evening for the first time since his illness.

Lady Henry Somerset has left town to assist in nursing her mother, Countess Somers, who is still unable to be moved from Wimille, owing to the serious injuries she sustained in the accident to the Paris mail train last Monday.

Mr. Trollope was not so well on Friday evening, but his medical attendants anticipated that he would have a quiet night. The only thing now required for the patient is perfect rest.

THE PHŒNIX PARK MURDERS.—The *Dublin Gazette* again publishes a proclamation offering a reward of £10,000 to any person who within six months shall give information leading to the conviction of the murderers of Lord Frederick Cavendish and Mr. Burke, and £5,000 for private information leading to the same result, and £5,000 and a free pardon to any accomplice, not one of the four murderers, who shall give information. A further reward of £1,000 is offered to any one concerned in the murder giving private information; and £500 for private information leading to the identification of any person concerned in, or privy to, the murder, or to the identification of the car and horse used on the occasion. The Government promise that every effort shall be made that the names of private informants shall not be disclosed to the public.

ATTACK ON A BRITISH FACTORY IN WEST AFRICA.—Advices received at Liverpool on Friday from Bonny to the 4th inst. state that Consul Hewitt was about to proceed up one of the rivers in her Majesty's ship *Flirt* to punish some natives for an attack on a British trading factory. The natives attacked and destroyed the factory, afterwards plundering whatever they could lay their hands on. In the attack nine of the employés of the factory were killed, including the agent. Consul Hewitt had intended to go to Accra in the *Cameroon* to order up one of the British warvessels; but before leaving for this purpose the *Flirt* came in sight, and he accordingly resolved to despatch her.

PARLIAMENTARY SUMMARY.

In the House of Commons, on Friday, Mr. Childers informed Lord Eustace Cecil that three British officers had gone to the Soudan to report on the state of things there, but not to take part in any military affairs; and that Sir Achibald Alison did not think it desirable that an escort should be sent with them. Mr. Gladstone, replying to Sir Stafford Northcote, said the Government were not prepared to interrupt the course of proceedings in respect to the procedure resolutions for the discussion of the motion on the Egyptian question. He hoped on Tuesday, however, to be able to give some information which would throw light upon the subject of the notice in question. At the instance of Mr. Ashmead Bartlett, Mr. Gladstone added that the Government did not intend to employ the Queen's forces to suppress the rebellion in the Soudan. In answer to Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Childers said that Arabi was surrendered to the Khedive in accordance with a decision of the Government communicated to Sir Garnet Wolseley, and mainly on the ground that he was a subject in arms against the Khedive, whose allies and mandatories we were. Sir Charles Dilke was again closely cross-examined as to the trial of Arabi; but in the end Mr. Gladstone interfered, and said the Government had no reason to believe that the Egyptian Government would not secure a fair trial for Arabi. In answer to a question by Lord Randolph Churchill as to the Dual Control, Sir Charles Dilke said it was impossible to add anything to the statement already made; and this, in answer to cries of "What statement?" he explained, amid much laughter, to be the statement that no statement could be made. As to the telegram reporting the abolition of the Control, he said that, though a proposal had been made by the Egyptian Government, no decree had been issued.

In reply to Sir Richard Cross, Mr. Evelyn Ashley said that according to a telegram received from Lord Napier by the Colonial Secretary, it was true that the Chief Inspector of Police at Gibraltar, on his own authority, had sent certain Cuban refugees to the British frontier near Gibraltar, and had prevented them from returning to British territory. The matter was now under judicial investigation. Sir Charles Dilke, on the same subject, said it was not true that the Spanish Government had refused to restore the refugees. No communications had yet been received from that Government.

The debate on Sir Stafford Northcote's motion for the rejection of the clôture resolution was resumed by Mr. O'Shea, who supported the proposal of the Government. Mr. Cowen opposed the clôture as destructive of liberty of speech, which he regarded as of more value than facility of legislation. Bills would pass if the people desired them; but if the House parted with its traditional freedom of debate, its whole character and functions would be changed. The rule would not restrict tedious speeches, but would throttle debate altogether; and as to obstruction, it had always existed and had often been used for the public advantage. As to the obstruction in the late Parliament, though the Irish members were blamed, their movers and backers got all the profit; and the men who were now shouting for the clôture were those who procured the failure of such measures as those relating to bankruptcy and a criminal code. While Parliament existed as the exponent of public opinion, to intimidate it, as would be the certain outcome of the clôture, would be a violation of the Constitution. After some further debate, Mr. Sexton declared that if the resolution were passed it would put to compulsory silence every member, wherever he might sit, who ventured to differ from the Prime Minister and to set up an opinion of his own. The safeguards, he contended, were utterly illusory, and no case for the "gag" had been made out from the conduct of the Irish members, who had obstructed the Conservative Government ten times more vigorously than during the last three years. The misgovernment of Ireland, he contended, gave the Irish members an additional right to freedom of speech. As to the reasons given by Mr. O'Shaughnessy and others of that party for voting for the clôture, he pointed out that the British Government had never wanted time, but only the will to do justice to Ireland, and the best mode of providing them with the will was to retain the means of proving the necessity of reforms. He congratulated himself that the Irish members had avenged the Union by undermining and bringing to the ground the parliamentary liberties of England. Sir Henry James dealt in the first place with the complaint that the Government had refused all amendments; and, replying to Mr. Cowen, told him that the time was now come for him to change his side of the House, and to take his seat among those with whom he voted. As to the charge of collusion between the Liberal leaders and the Irish obstructives, he gave it a flat denial. The conditions of the past, so often appealed to, had no reference to present circumstances, and a remedy was urgently demanded, because the House had not time enough to do its work, and a much larger number of members desired to take part in the debates.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach thought that the speech of Mr. Cowen deserved a better reply from the Ministers who, he pointed out, had slunk out one by one; and, so far from accepting the Attorney-General's denial of Liberal collusion with Irish obstruction, he pressed it home and mentioned instances in which Mr. Chamberlain had organised obstruction. Repetition and irrelevance, he pointed out, were amply dealt with by the subsequent resolutions; and obstruction, he believed, was more effectually checked by proceeding against individual members, as the late Government had always preferred, instead of punishing the innocent for the fault of the guilty. No doubt many members opposite sincerely believed that the rule would not interfere with liberty of speech; but the future of the party rested with the Radicals, who had made no secret of how they meant to use it. Moreover, he showed that the initiative of the Chair would be a very poor safeguard, and that the rule would in time come to be exercised under pressure from the leader of the House. On a division being taken, the resolution was carried by a majority of 44—304 to 260. The announcement of the numbers was received with much cheering from both sides.

The debate was then adjourned until Monday, and the House rose at ten minutes past one o'clock.

THE DIVISION ON THE CLOSURE.

The number of members who voted in the division on Mr. Gladstone's first resolution (568) was four more than those who voted on Mr. Gibson's amendment (564), and thirty-three less than the numbers on the division on Mr. Marriott's amendment (601) in March last. Mr. Gill and Mr. Sullivan were absent in Ireland, and Mr. Carter Hamilton, the member for South Lanarkshire, who would have voted for the Government, had to leave suddenly owing to the illness of Lady Emily Hamilton. Mr. Richard Power arrived unexpectedly and voted with the Opposition. Mr. Healy was absent from the division. The majority was made up of 281 English and Scotch Liberals and twenty-five Irish Liberals, including four or five nominal Home Rulers. Mr. Gabbett, Mr. Mitchell Henry, Mr. D. O. Conor, and Mr. P. J. Smyth, who voted with the Government against Mr. Marriott's amendment, were absent. The minority, including tellers, was composed of 207 English and Scotch Conservatives, 19 Irish Conservatives, 31 Parnellites and Moderate Home Rulers, 1 Irish Liberal, and 4 English Liberals. The Moderate Home Rulers include Mr. Shaw and Mr. A. Moore, and the Irish Liberal was Sir John Ennis. The English Liberals were Mr. Courtauld, Mr. Cowen, Mr. Marriott, and Mr. P. Taylor. The following Liberals who in March were absent unpaired, now voted with the Government: Mr. Brogden, the Hon. C. W. Fitzwilliam, Mr. E. Stafford Howard, Sir James Lawrence, Alderman William Lawrence, Sir Andrew Lusk, Sir N. M. de Rothschild, Mr. Charles Russell, and Sir Tollemache Sinclair.

The following are the pairs:—

FOR GOVERNMENT.	AGAINST GOVERNMENT.
Portman, Hon. W. H. B.	Thynne, Lord H.
Ramsden, Sir J.	Storer, G.
Allman, R. L.	Ewart, W.
Milbank, Sir F.	Lennox, Lord H.
Gordon, Lord D.	Hill, A Staveley.
Mason, H.	Birley, Hugh.
Magniac, C.	Watney, James.
Henderson, F.	Close, M. C.
St. Aubyn, Sir J.	Brymer, W. E.
O'Conor, D. M.	Taylor, Colonel.
Crum, A.	Ewing, A. Orr.
Pugh, L. P.	Beresford, G. De la P.
Wilson, Isaac	Castlereagh, Viscount
Barnes, A.	Wilmot, Sir E.
Kingscote, Colonel	Sykes, Christopher
Rylands, P.	Bentinck, G. W. P.
Hamilton, J. G. C.	Cobbold, T. C.

THE DUBLIN CORPORATION AND SIR GARNET WOLSELEY.

The special meeting of the Dublin Municipal Council, convened to express an opinion as to the gallantry of the Irish regiments in the late Egyptian campaign, and to take steps with the view of conferring the freedom of the city on Sir Garnet Wolseley, was held on Friday afternoon. The Council Chamber was crowded, and outside a considerable crowd had collected. The Hon. W. Vereker moved a resolution:—"To place on record our sense of the services rendered, and admiration of the gallantry displayed by Irish soldiers, especially the Royal Irish Regiment and Royal Irish Fusiliers, in the late campaign in Egypt, and of the remarkable ability of their commander, our countryman and fellow-citizen, Sir Garnet Wolseley, in bringing the campaign to so speedy and glorious a conclusion, and that the Corporation do accordingly tender to Sir Garnet Wolseley, as a tribute of respect to him and the troops he commanded, the honorary freedom of this ancient metropolis." Mr. Gill, M.P., accused the Tories of dodgery in reference to the compact between Lord Randolph Churchill and the Parnell party to have this meeting adjourned to enable Messrs. Gray, Dawson, Gill, and Sullivan to vote against the closure. Dr. Moyers said there was such a compact, and the Tories were prepared to abide by it, but there were others who wished to force it on. If there had been such a compact, and Messrs. Gill and Sullivan were parties to it, how came they there? Mr. Sullivan said he was no party to the arrangement, and he had left London before it was arrived at. Mr. Gill made a similar statement. Dr. Moyers then moved as an amendment, "That the meeting be adjourned for a week, but the National party, including Mr. Gill and Mr. Sullivan, opposed this, and it was rejected by 29 votes to 19. Mr. Sullivan then moved as an amendment:—

"That this council, while fully conscious that Irish soldiers will at all times maintain the ancient fame of their race and nation, sees no necessity for adopting any resolution having reference to the recent war against the Egyptian people, believing that war was undertaken on behalf of interests with which Irish people have no concern, and knowing that its only result as regards Ireland has been an addition to already heavy and crushing taxation, and the carrying of misery and sorrow to many an Irish home, and at the same time bringing desolation and ruin on the unfortunate Egyptian people."

A division was taken on the amendment, when there voted 27 for it and 21 against it, and it was declared carried amid cheers. It was then passed as a substantive resolution, and the proceedings terminated.

THE FINDING OF ARABI PACHA'S PAPERS.

Mr. A. M. Broadley, Arabi's senior counsel writes as follows to Mr. F. Villiers, the special artist of the *Graphic* in Egypt:—"The story of the finding of Arabi Pacha's papers is as follows: On the evening of the 22d October Arabi said to me, 'My life and honour are in your hands and in the hands of England; if you can get me an interview with my servant, Muhamed Ibn Ahmed, I will give you all my papers which escaped Tel-el-Kebir and the looting of my house at Cairo, and they are by far the most important instruments for my defence.' Sir Edward Malet and Sir Charles Wilson generously came to the rescue, and on the afternoon of the following day the negro half-caste, Muhamed Ibn Ahmed, received his master's orders, in the presence of Sir Charles Wilson, to treat as brothers the English lawyers, and surrender to them the documents he had so faithfully guarded Arabi described minutely the different hiding-places of the papers—in holes of the wall, behind the backs of pictures, and in his wife's dress, and the servant promised obedience. Muhamed Ibn Ahmed has probably no other property in the world than a blue shirt and a ragged cloth coat to cover it, but neither terrors nor bribes could shake his allegiance to his fallen but beloved master. 'Give me to-night,' he said 'to open the receptacles the Pacha alludes to and to-morrow morning the papers are in your hands. I slept little that night, as I felt how much depended on the result, and next morning I was very early with Arabi. From the window of the cell I saw his son and servaat arrive. I went down to meet them. The news they brought was not encouraging. Muhamed Tewfik's powerful agents had smelt a rat, and palace emissaries during the night had told the wife of Arabi that on the morrow her husband would be surrendered to the tender mercies of Abdul Hamid at Stamboul. She had fled to a friend's house and taken the papers with her. 'Your father's honour, and, perhaps, his life,' I told the son, 'depends on you finding your mother. I conjure you to lose no time. Three hours hence and it may be too late.' Muhamed Ibn Ahmed Arabi is a slender dark-complexioned youth of 21, with one eye hopelessly destroyed. He has always been his father's darling. He grasped my hand and said, 'I am sure I can find her; but grant me two hours' delay, and I will join you at Shepheard's Hotel with the papers.' Muhamed Ibn Ahmed Arabi and his servant disappeared, and I took up a position of observation in the well-known and cool verandah of the Cairo hostelry. Hardly an hour had elapsed when a brougham was hastily driven to the door and my friend Muhamed swiftly descended, and, carrying a large parcel in his hand, rushed up the steps and into my room. Five minutes later and I was deep in the exhibits of my client Ahmed Arabi. From a woollen cloth, the distinctive feature of which was a yellow ace of spades, the boy drew forth one after another his father's hidden papers. With Mr. Napier's assistance I took them one after the other and placed them in a case; firmans, letters from men in high places at the Imperial Ottoman Court, decrees of the Ulemas of Egypt, covered with hundreds of seals and signatures, records of Cabinet Councils, and papers of every conceivable description. I never shook hands with any one more cordially than I did with the faithful Muhamed Ibn Ahmed. Two hours afterwards the papers were in her Majesty's Consulate, initialed and numbered by Sir Charles Wilson and myself. Time will show the value of my *trouvaille*."

THE PAYMENT OF LAND LEAGUE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

In a recent issue the *Irish World* expresses great astonishment at the statement of Mr. Parnell cabled to New York that the unscrupulous use of money by the Government in Parliamentary elections had in some instances rendered outlay necessary to insure the return of men pledged to the cause of Ireland. It says:—"The knowledge which is now vouchsafed is certainly the first intimation of the kind we have ever got, and to the thousands in America who have subscribed their moneys to the Land League it will be a strange and disappointing revelation. The understanding here in America was that the Land League fund was to be spent on Land League work, and that that work was to be done in Ireland as well as for Ireland. Davitt asked for some money, a mere trifle, to enable him to carry the war into Africa, and his moderate request was at once and sharply refused, and we interpreted that refusal as a strict construction from the understanding that prevailed in this country. Yet it now comes out that heavy outlays from the Land League fund have been made in order to enable a batch of young politicians to put M.P. after their names. We solemnly and emphatically declare that we never dreamed that any such game was being played, nor did we ever suppose that those in charge of the Land League fund could have for a moment sanctioned such a proceeding. We as solemnly and emphatically declare that had the knowledge of such a transaction come to our possession within the past three years, never would we have contributed a dollar to that fund, and never would the voice of the *Irish World* have gone forth in advocacy of its pretensions; and in saying this, we feel that we give expression to the sentiments of every reader of this paper throughout the American Continent. The *Irish World*, from the first, and all along, has disfavoured and derided the Parliamentary byplay. We regarded it as a waste of time and energy, a delusion, a cheat, a cause of humiliation to every Irishman of spirit, and a source of never-failing ridicule to every enemy of the race. These Anglo-Irish Parliamentartans are neitheir fish nor flesh. It was the pressure that was brought to bear on the British Government from without, and not what was said in the House, that always moved England to grant an instalment of justice to Ireland. The Irish Parliamentary party is but as the fly on the wheel of the great revolution, and with or without the fly, onward the revolution will go. Had it been known that the Land League money would ever be devoted to defray Parliamentary election expenses, not one penny from our pocket would ever have found its way into that fund. We had rather cast the money into the Atlantic Ocean. Those who have faith in that Parliamentary programme ought to have given evidence of their faith in their works. The Irish Parliamentary programme, which we have ever regarded as a humbug, stands now branded as a swindle." In another article in the same paper, Irishmen are asked to pause and consider well whether they are justified in accepting peasant proprietary as a satisfactory solution of the land question.

INDIAN OFFICERS AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—The five senior officers of the Indian contingent now in England visited the House of Commons on Friday night. They drove from Wimbledon in a private omnibus, accompanied by Colonel Pennington, reaching the entrance of the House at about a quarter past nine. They were received by the Assistant Serjeant-at-Arms, Mr. F. R. Gossett, and Inspector Denning, who conducted them over the building, passing in by way of Westminster Hall. They were then conducted through the dining, tea, and smoking rooms, and also the library, where they signed their names. They next passed to the lobby—where their appearance caused considerable excitement amongst the large number of members present—and up into the gallery reserved for distinguished strangers, where they listened to the debate upon the clôture. Two of the number speak English, and were able to interpret to the remainder the sense of what was taking place. The party were introduced to, and conversed with several members of Parliament, among whom were Mr. Trevelyan, General Burnaby, and Mr. Grantham, Q.C. As soon as their presence was observed loud and prolonged cheering broke forth from every quarter of the House. The officers remained in the gallery until a quarter past twelve, when they left, again saluting the House, a proceeding that evoked another cheer. Before they left, on their return to Wimbledon, Lord Hartington exchanged a few words with them.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.—A petition by Sir R. Drummond Wolff, Mr. F. P. Sharp, and Lord Richard Grosvenor, for payment out of court of a sum of £23,700, came before Mr. Justice Chitty on Saturday afternoon. The money was paid into court last January, as a Parliamentary deposit, and was invested in Consols. The bill, which was for the scheme of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, and was opposed to Sir E. Watkin's South-Eastern Railway scheme, was with drawn last August, of which the Speaker's certificate was obtained. The money was now asked to be paid to the solicitor.—Mr. Justice Chitty made the order.

THE CLAY CROSS EXPLOSION.—The whole of the bodies have now been recovered from the pit at Clay Cross, the scene of the explosion on Tuesday. The last was got out early on Friday afternoon. Most of them were found in the cross-cuts in the north workings, where undoubtedly the explosion originated; but how it was caused cannot yet be ascertained. The bodies found there were terribly burned and cut. Lady Egerton sent a number of flowers on Friday from Chatsworth House to place upon the graves; and Lord Edward Cavendish, M.P., has desired that his name should be put on the subscription list.

THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION.—A conference of delegates from the Liberal and Radical Club and Association of the Lambeth division was held at Battersea on Friday to decide upon a course of action in regard to the School Board election. The platform adopted was that of compulsory and unsectarian education; and as Mr. William Saunders is the only candidate who satisfied the full platform, is was resolved by a large majority to support him. The other candidates whom it was decided to support are Miss Muller, the Reverend J. M. Murphy, and Mr. Wiseman. Miss Muller, a candidate for re-election to the London School Board, addressed the ratepayers of Lambeth on Friday night, at the Collyer Memorial Schools, Peckham. She said that the chief questions now before the electors were higher education—for which, the thought, the time would not come before she work of elementary education was more nearly completed—free schools, which were now imperatively called for in some districts; and a reform of the system of local managers. As to the appointment of these last, she thought the ratepayers ought to be more directly consulted. A resolution to support Miss Muller's candidature was carried without dissent.

THE GOVERNMENT OF LONDON.—The London Municipal Reform League are (the London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* says) preparing for a vigorous campaign during the winter and throughout the expected progress of Sir William Harcourt's bill during next session. Mr. Firth, the junior member for Chelsea, who is president of the League, has had many consultations with the Secretary of State upon the provisions of the bill, and Sir William Harcourt has not only consulted the reformers, but also several of the past Lord Mayors and members of the Metropolitan Board of Works, who specially represent the vestries and district boards, of which thirty-eight are at present entrusted with the local government of the metropolis outside the limits of the city. The bill makes judicious provision for conciliating these bodies, who are in possession. The measure, it should always be remembered, is practically inseparable from the County Government Bill because of the fact that the sheriffs of the city have jurisdiction for and throughout the county of Middlesex. It is probable, therefore, that after Mr. Gladstone, with the assistance of Mr. Dodson, has expounded early in next session the provisions of the County Government Bill, Sir William Harcourt will follow immediately with the cognate bill for the better government of London.

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Great-Britain.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 12—13, 1882.

THE STATE OF IRELAND.

The grave news that reaches us from Ireland will go far to dispel the feeling of security which was beginning to take the place of previous alarm. There can be no doubt that Mr. Justice Lawson, whose fearless discharge of duty has recently drawn upon him the animosity of the classes of disorder in Ireland, has narrowly escaped the fate of Lord Frederick Cavendish and Mr. Burke. On Saturday evening, as he was on his way to dine with the Benchers of the King's Inns, a man, whose movements aroused the suspicion of Mr. Justice Lawson's escort, was observed to cross the street in the growing dusk and to confront the Judge in a threatening attitude. By the vigilance and promptitude of an attendant name McDonnell he was secured after a struggle, and it was found that he had a loaded revolver in his grasp. Among all classes in England and among all loyal persons in Ireland this diabolical attempt will arouse the utmost indignation. Englishmen regard the ministers of the law with a respect second only to that with which the Throne itself is invested, and Mr. Justice Lawson's conduct in the trying circumstances in which he has been called upon to act gives him a personal as well as an official title to this respect. He will receive on all hands assurances of sympathy and congratulations on his escape. The similarity of this audacious attempt at assassination with the murders in the Phœnix Park will strike every one, and many will urge that, in spite of the apparent improvement in the state of Ireland upon which Mr. Gladstone was but the other day congratulating his hearers, no real progress towards pacification has been made. The occurrence of Saturday gives a rude discouragement to the hopeful views which the public would gladly entertain. It is evident that the remedies which the Legislature has devised must be applied with an unfaltering hand. There is a reserve of criminal determination which has not yet been reached, and this its latest manifestation is equal in audacity, and perhaps also in significance, to any that has gone before. There are considerations, however, in connection with the attempt against Mr. Justice Lawson which may be dwelt on with satisfaction. Between it and the crime in the Phœnix Park, to which it in many respects bears strong resemblance, not only is there all the difference between success and failure, but the failure has involved the capture of the would-be assassin. This may prove to be of great importance. It is not yet possible to say with certainty whether the crime was prompted by political motives or by some personal ill-will; but circumstances, such as the presence of a supposed accomplice and the expensive and modern form of the revolver, seem to indicate that Delany was the instrument of others. If this be so, his capture may lead to further arrests and to the breaking up of a confederacy of crime. It is even possible that it may throw some light upon the murders in the Phœnix Park. The prospect is thus not altogether gloomy.—*Times.*

The *Daily News* says:—The supposed attempt to murder Mr. Justice Lawson in Clare-street, Dublin, on Saturday night, is a disagreeable exception to the general signs of social improvement throughout Ireland. It is useless to speculate on motives and intentions in the absence of positive evidence, and Delany, who was arrested before he could even draw his revolver from his pocket, may turn out to be the emissary of a secret society. But, on the other hand, he may be merely an habitual criminal, with a general dislike for Judges, or a man who has been tried and convicted before Mr. Justice Lawson himself. In any case, he is in custody; and if it is proved that he intended to kill or injure the distinguished lawyer who has so happily escaped, he will no doubt receive the exemplary punishment which he deserves. Attempts to connect the designs of a skulking ruffian, whom the police have identified as a returned convict, with the unfortunate imprisonment of Mr. Gray are little less than absurd. Judges are not popular with the class to which Delany belongs, and it is satisfactory to know that in Dublin, at least, they are so well protected as Mr. Justice Lawson was on this occasion. It would be premature to assume that Delany's arrest will lead to any important disclosures, but there is some ground for supposing that the Irish police are on the track of valuable information. Both the murders in the Phœnix-park, and the drowning of Lord Ardilaun's bailiffs have lately been the subjects of renewed and promising investigation, and one of the prisoners about to be tried for the murder of the Joyces in Connemara is said to have turned Queen's evidence against his accomplices. That the authors of such a massacre may be brought to justice must be the fervent hope of every man who sets the slightest value upon human life. Happily there is no reason to doubt the impartiality of the tribunal which sits in Green-street. There has been hitherto no necessity, real or supposed, for actually dispensing with trial by jury in Ireland, and that part of the Prevention Act remains a dead letter. The jurors who have been empannelled before the Special Commission empowered to hear cases from all parts of the country have done their duty to the general satisfaction, though some not very intelligible criticisms have been passed upon the mode in which they were selected. Severe, but not excessive penalties have been inflicted upon persons guilty of agrarian outrages, and the firm, fair, and open administration of justice has produced its usual effect. The diminution of agrarian crime throughout Ireland can no longer be disputed by the gloomiest observer, and we have a right to believe that the corner has been turned. What might have happened if all the demands of the Irish people had been met with stupid and obstinate resistance it is frightful to conjecture, but happily impossible to say

FRANCE AND MADAGASCAR.

The *Madagascar Times*, a journal published at Antananarivo, publishes the text of an address to the President of the French Republic from a number of French subjects resident in Madagascar, which throws some light on the existing situation in that island. This address, which is signed by fifty-three persons, appeals to the French Government to interfere for their security as well as for the protection of French interests generally. They say:—"When French territory in this country has been outraged, when our citizens have been frustrated, when our flag has been insulted, when numerous crimes remain unpunished, when the the rights of France are not acknowledged, when the French are suffering, when our children are without prospects and our sufferings continue, we appeal to you, Mr. President, and to your patriotic devotion for the children of France." This is the most coherent sentence in the entire document. Nowhere do the memorialists condescend to particularise the grievances from which they profess to suffer. We, however, know that the only substantial grievance of which they have made complaint is that they are not allowed to purchase land in Madagascar, a disability which they share in common with Englishmen and all other Europeans. The English residents in the island, who are far more numerous than the French, experience quite as much inconvenience as their neighbours from the Malagasy land laws; but they have not on that account addressed passionate appeals to Mr. Gladstone to compel the Government of Madagascar to legalise the purchase of land by foreigners. They are content to discuss the subject in a rational manner, and, if needs be, to accept a reasonable compromise. The French residents complain that "French territory" has been "outraged," and the French flag "insulted." Up to the present moment not a shred of evidence has been forthcoming to show that the French have any right to a single rood of territory in Madagascar. When the present differences arose they set up a claim to a Protectorate, but it is only since the Malagasy Embassy arrived in Paris that they put forward a demand for an actual cession of territory. The Paris journals have written much on this subject, but they have not yet attempted to explain how it happens that, although the French now deny the right of the Hovas to govern the west coast, they lately exacted an indemnity from the Madagascar Government for not giving sufficient protection to certain French Arabs on that coast, who, we may add, were engaged in violating the laws of the country. No one who reads the letter to President Grévy can doubt that it was written mainly in the interest of M. Le Commandant Le Timbre and M. Baudais, the two enterprising French officials who have originated the present Malgasy question. The *Madagascar Times* says:—"Some of the signers are merely boys; others would be in much more peril and danger if they returned whence they came; several are men only just arrived from Réunion, and who cannot have had time to know anything about the country; a great many are in such peril and danger that they are married to native women; and some again are persons discontented with Madagascar simply because they cannot immediately make a fortune here without working for it as they do in Réunion.—*Daily News.*

THE CUBAN REFUGEES.

The *Standard* publishes the following telegrams from its correspondents in Spain:—

GIBRALTAR, SUNDAY NIGHT.

Maceo is in solitary confinement at Ceuta. The other refugees are in Cadiz.

MADRID, SATURDAY.

The Spaniards and their papers, when commenting upon the affairs of the Cuban fugitives, do not seem to understand that there can be no analogy whatever between ordinary criminals and suspected persons who are wanted by the ordinary tribunals (whom England and Spain, under their Extradition Treaty, and even before that Convention, surrendered to each other, as all civilised nations do) and political offenders, who are expressly exempted by all Extradition Treaties and by international usages from the remotest antiquity. Political exiles are deemed to have a right to asylum and protection as they are flying from the rigour of their own laws after their defeat. Some of the Madrid papers seem to suppose that their Gibraltar Consul displayed praiseworthy zeal by advising the English police and the Colonial Secretary that some men who had been detained in Spanish prisons had escaped, and would probably appear on the Rock. He also gave all the particulars concerning Rodriguez, Castillo, and Maceo, and the wife, son, and sister-in-law of the latter, all of whom are mulattoes. This information led to their being denied admittance in Gibraltar, and to their being escorted by the Rock police and conveyed in carriages to the extremity of our lines, despite their energetic protest that they were political exiles claiming British hospitality. Many Spaniards admit that the conduct of the Gibraltar police in not even giving the refugees the opportunity of the delay always granted to criminals under extradition to establish their defence was an act of culpable negligence, but still there exists much misapprehension on the nature of this case. Spaniards do not understand that even if Maceo had been a political convict, regularly condemned by Spanish court-martials, or prosecuted before the Cuban Tribunals for acts committed during the late civil war, he could not have been given up under an Extradition Treaty which excluded political offenders. England never surrendered escaped French convicts from the penal settlements of New Caledonia, even when such convicts were men of the infamous Paris Commune of 1871. Maceo and all but very few of the Cubans now detained in Spanish fortresses, I repeat on the highest authority, were never tried or prosecuted. They had surrendered of their own free will to the Spanish Generals; and, contrary to the terms of their submission, they were not allowed to go abroad, but were transported to Spanish fortresses by order of the Captain General of Cuba. They were detained in Spain after the promulgation of the Imperial Constitution in Havannah. Other Cubans, even less fortunate, were arrested and transported on the mere suspicion of disaffection, and without trial, and they are living on eight or nine dollars a month in the fortresses of Morocco, or in the Balearic Isles. Deputies and Senators from Cuba and Puerto Rico assure me that they will expose the above facts in the next Session of the Cortes, because they hold the detention of these exiles without trial to be, like the recent expulsion from Cuba of a Liberal journalist, acts of violation of the Constitution, and concessions made to the planter and Ultramontane cliques in Cuba. They declare that no policy of the Madrid Government can satisfy colonial aspirations which does not shake off those feudal influences and arbitrary traditions which can, in their opinion, only be remedied by giving Cuba self-government similar to that of the British colonies. Colonial autonomy is opposed by almost every school of Spanish politicians.

MADRID, SUNDAY NIGHT.

Last night all the official organs of the Madrid Government contained the following authorised statement:—

"On the inquiry upon the capture of Maceo, which was opened in Gibraltar by the order of the British Government, proof was given of a declaration made by Maceo in Algesiras directly after his capture. It was in these terms:—'On arriving in Gibraltar, because we had no documents, the English police expelled us, taking us to the outskirts of that fortress; and on arriving upon Spanish territory we were arrested by a police inspector, who took us to Algesiras.'"

The Spanish official papers do not say how they got possession of this statement, which they report as being presented in the British inquiry; because I know that the investigations of both Governments are being conducted with the strictest reserve.

La Correspondencia de Espana, in a bulletin which it daily receives from official sources, states that the Madrid Government have opened a parallel inquiry, in order to get at the truth out of the conflicting statements upon the capture of Maceo. Some Opposition papers still urge the Government to resist all demands for the restitution of the fugitives; and they comment upon the statement made in the House of Commons by Sir Charles Dilke as being contrary to the general belief in Spain.

THE EGYPTIAN PRISONERS.

The Alexandria correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Sunday:—

Mr. Broadley had a long interview with Lord Dufferin yesterday. It is to be hoped that some means may yet be found to limit the proportions of this dangerous and useless trial. In Cairo one hardly realises fully the effect it is producing on the country. Here, on the contrary, one meets proofs of it at every turn. The native tradesmen keep small stocks, and will not enter into any long leases. They are, in fact, living in momentary expectation of a renewal of hostilities. The public confidence is daily weakened, instead of strengthened, by the course of events. The Government is seriously alive to the immense gravity of the situation, and is doing its utmost to expedite matters. Meanwhile, whatever the cost to the country, every day's delay is gain to Arabi; and without accusing counsel of unduly lengthening the proceedings, it is not to the interest either of themselves or their clients to hasten them. Hence one may account perfectly for many futile discussions, letters, and protests, only serving to encourage the natives and to exasperate the Europeans. The counsel are now asking for papers which the accused maintain are missing from those taken at Tel-el-Kebir. They also desire to examine seven witnesses at Stamboul, and Mr. De Chair. Toulba Pacha is ill.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Sunday:—

An English gentleman who has just returned from Zagazig assures me that he learned there, both from official and private sources, that a hundred and fifty persons charged with political offences are now confined in the prison of that town. These are most cruelly treated and many have been severely flogged. The two notables mentioned in my Thursday's telegram who applied to Mr. Broadley to defend them were chained together and confined in a dark cell. Recently, however, owing to the intercession of some of their female relatives, they have obtained some allevation of their treatment.

Ameen Bey Shemsy, one of these men, certainly supported the national movement and the war, and devoted his large fortune to sustain them, but Abaza appears on several occasions to have refused compliance with Arabi's orders for arming the Bedouins. There is every reason to believe that both men are the victims of a private grudge on the part of the Governor, who some years ago had an important law suit against them, but was defeated, and was, in consequence of his conduct in the affair, turned out of office. Nikola, the man who conveyed their appeal to Mr. Broadley, and was afterwards summarily arrested and expelled from Egyptian territory, is, I am informed by the police, the British Consular Agent at Zagazig, and a British protected subject of Maltese extraction.

A striking evidence of the regularity and order with which the administration of Egypt was carried on by the National Government during the war is afforded by the report of the Minister of Finance, showing that the extra expenditure, and the losses of the Treasury occasioned by the recent events, only amount to three hundred and sixty-eight thousand pounds, and that the deficiency upon the year's budget is not estimated to exceed a hundred and twenty thousand pounds.

MR. GREEN'S RELEASE.

The *Saturday Review* says:—

Eight years have elapsed since the Public Worship act became law, and all men from the Episcopate downwards, except the Church Association and Lord Penzance, have grown heartily sick of it. Till this recent exhibition, we had hoped that facts might have had some effect even upon the judge. A Royal Commission is sitting to reform the ecclesiastical judicature. Will it be able to reform the ecclesiastical judiciary?

The *Spectator* asks:—

Who has been the better for Mr. Green's long sojourn in gaol? and replies, That is a question which admits of one answer—the Ritualists. It has enabled them to establish two very important points—that they do not mean to obey the law as it is, and that they are ready to bear any coesequences they may incur by disobeying it. A militant party which has made these two things clear has taken a distinct step forward. There can be no question, for example, that if the Public Worship Regulation Act were about to expire, it would not be renewed in its present form. Mr. Green's imprisonment has determined this much.

The *Tablet* says:—

If there is any fact clearer than another in the history of the Reformation it is that this doctrine of the Royal supremacy is the fundamental dogma of the National Church; the sole doctrine, we may say, about which it gives no uncertain sound; and yet it is this very doctrine, as presented in concrete form by the court of Lord Penzance, that Mr. Green has resisted, even unto bonds. If he really cannot, in conscience, acknowledge the Royal supremacy, the Church of England is no spiritual home for him.

WILD BEAST FIGHT IN A MENAGERIE.—On Thursday night a terrible fight took place between two hyenas in a menagerie, which is exhibiting in Wolverhampton. Delmonico, the lion tamer, was sent for, who, after a short interval, entered the den, and notwithstanding the angry growls of the victorious animal, removed the carcase of the other, which was then found to be dead. While the fight lasted it created considerable excitement among the spectators, many of whom hurriedly left the exhibition.

THE ATTEMPT TO MURDER MR. JUSTICE LAWSON.

The following details respecting the attempted assassination of Mr. Justice Lawson, on Saturday, are given by the Dublin correspondent of the *Standard*, who, writing on Sunday night, says:—

Mr. Justice Lawson had evidently a narrow escape from assassination last evening. His Lordship has for a long time past, but more especially since the late Dublin Commission trials, and the severe comment about him in certain newspapers, never gone out of doors without being protected by policemen in plain clothes. The Judge has received a large number of threatening letters, and it is alleged that a secret organisation has condemned him to be shot. Last evening he left his house in Merrion-street about half-past five o'clock, intending to make a call at the Kildare-street Club on his way to the King's Inn, where he was to preside at the dinner. He was followed at a distance of a few yards by two constables of the B division, and on the opposite side of the street walked two army pensioners, Darker and Corporal M'Donnell, these being what are known as constables in aid, supplied by the Government for protection duty.

The Judge came along by Merrion-square, and turned into Clare-street, the relative positions being observed by the constables charged with his safety. Nassau-street is a continuation of Clare-street, and the entrance to the Kildare-street Club is a couple of yards off that thoroughfare. The wall of Trinity College Park runs along the northern side of the street the whole length of Nassau-street, and it was on that side the two constables in aid were walking and keeping in view Judge Lawson, who was going on the southern side of the street next the houses. Just as they passed on to the crossing from Clare-street into College-street, and were approaching the College railings, Corporal M'Donnell observed a man about thirty-five years of age, apparently an artisan, who, in endeavouring to pass him somewhat quickly, jostled against him. The fellow said to the constable, "It is all right." M'Donnell thought there was something suspicious about his manner, and walked nearly beside him all the time, closely scrutinising him.

As that portion of the footpath facing the Kildare-street Club was reached, the man crossed the street right in front of the club windows, and was about turning back to meet the Judge, who was only a few yards off. When he was crossing the street, M'Donnell noticed the butt of a revolver sticking out of the inner breast pocket of his coat. In an instant he rushed after the man, shouting, "Here is a fellow with a revolver." He knocked the man down, and a struggle ensued for the revolver, which M'Donnell at once seized, and obtained after a violent effort, the back of his hand being cut in the tussle. The revolver proved to be a remarkably large six-chambered one, fully loaded, and of the exact pattern of those picked up in the house in Dorset-street where M'Mahon was shot some time ago. It is extraordinary the pistol did not go off in the struggle. The other constables immediately sprang forward to the assistance of their comrade, and Judge Lawson witnessed the Prisoner being secured. The man was then taken on a car and driven to College-street Police-station, but while on the way he endeavoured to get rid of a dozen cartridges which he had rolled up in a piece of paper in his pocket. One of the policemen, however, detected him as he was trying to drop the parcel off the car.

The Judge proceeded, apparently quite unconcerned, to the King's Inn. The Prisoner is detained at College-street Station. He gave the name of Corrigan, but refused to give an address. In a short time a number of detectives arrived, and they at once declared that he had given a false name, and stated that they knew him well, as he had been in the habit of reporting himself at their office as a returned convict. He is a carpenter by trade, and was, it is said, in the year 1870 sentenced to five years' penal servitude for robbing a lady at Portobello, near Rathmines, Dublin, and on the same occasion endeavouring to shoot, with a revolver, a gentleman who came to the lady's assistance. He is married, and lives in the city. The detectives made a search of his house last night, and state they found nothing to incriminate the prisoner. Their assertion, however, in that regard must be taken with reserve, for they appear to consider the arrest of the man under such circumstances as highly corroborative of their suspicions regarding him in another very important affair. It is believed his capture will lead to several arrests.

At two o'clock to-day the charge was formally entered. The man's real name is Patrick Delancy, house carpenter, residing at 131, Cork-street. The charge is that the accused on Saturday evening, in Leinster-street, followed Mr. Justice Lawson, rushed up in front of him, seized a loaded revolver which he had in his breast pocket, with intent to shoot the Judge, and thereby feloniously attempted to discharge the said revolver at the Judge with intent to murder. The Lord Lieutenant came from the Viceregal Lodge to the Castle this morning, and was present when the Law Officers were discussing the subject. His Excellency sent Mr. Hamilton, the Under Secretary, this morning officially to congratulate Judge Lawson upon his escape. The Lord Lieutenant and Countess Spencer, after church to-day, also paid a visit to Judge Lawson, at his residence in Fitzwilliam-street, and congratulated him upon his narrow escape. The Prisoner is believed to belong to the Fenian organisation, and it is stated that others besides himself were engaged to carry out the assassination, for an attempt was made to stop a tramcar, so that in the confusion which followed the Prisoner might have had an opportunity of escaping. The accused will be brought up at the Police-court to-morrow morning. The police admit that they have received very important information regarding the Phœnix Park murders, and that it was with a view of getting further corroborative evidence the Proclamation of the rewards was again published in Friday's *Gazette*.

THE ROYAL REVIEW.

It is stated that the review of the troops which have returned from Egypt by her Majesty has been now definitely fixed to take place on Saturday, the 18th inst., at noon, and, unless subsequent alteration is ordered, will be carried out in the Mall, St. James's Park. It is proposed to include in the parade, in addition to the Household troops, contingents of other corps so as to make the occasion thoroughly representative of the forces which took part in the Egyptian campaign. The Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, Prince and Princess Christian, and Princess Mary Adelaide will be present at the saluting point. It is understood that Admiral Dowell, first in command, and Admiral Sullivan, second in command, of the Channel Squadron, have received orders to be present at the review, together with a contingent of the Channel Squadron. Two men of each battery, troop, and company engaged with the army in Egypt have been selected for decoration at the hand of her Majesty at the review. It is expected that the whole of the officers attending the review will be personally decorated by the Queen, and the same favour will be extended to the Indian troops, each one of whom will be present in a representative capacity. The men selected from the regiments in England to share in this special honour will be, as far as practicable, men who took part in the battle of Tel-el-Kebir.

MR. TENNYSON'S NEW PLAY.

The reception of Mr. Tennyson's new drama, *The Promise of May*, was, says the *Observer*, very stormy and unsympathetic at the Globe on Saturday night. Its serious delienations of character were received with roars of laughter, its illustrations of rustic life were loudly pronounced tedious, and, what was worst of all, its would-be pathos wholly failed to move its spectators except to contemptuous merriment. The play, in fact, hopelessly missed its mark, and, in the case of a far smaller man than Mr. Tennyson, would have to be written down a practical failure. For a man of his well-won position in the world of letters it can only be held a miserable *fiasco*. That the author of *Queen Mary*, and *The Cup*, and *The Falcon* had any strong dramatic instinct could be believed by few who understood the true requirements of stage-work. Beautifully as they might be written, they clearly had no real grip of the sympathy of their hearers, and they needed all the prestige of their author's name and all the aid of skilfully-employed accessories to aid them in making their mark. But it could scarcely have been supposed that any writer with the Poet Laureate's keen sense of artistic effect would set forth a work so wholly inartistic as this strangely feeble production. In parts, no doubt, it might have been better acted, and it might, no doubt, have been listened to with more patience by an audience less keen to ridicule its defects. Perhaps however, the result is better as it is—better in that the author escapes the fool's paradise of a *succès d'estime* and in that the fallacy of the undramatic drama is at once exposed. The story of *The Promise of May* is soon told. Farmer Steer has two daughters, Dora and Eva, of whom the former is loved by honest Farmer Dobson and the latter by a gentleman named Edgar. At the opening of the play the eldest sister returns home after paying a long visit in another part of the country, never having for her part met Eva's lover, whose baseness is very shortly revealed. Mr. Edgar has, it appears, been paying the young girl nocturnal visits at the farm, and has so far aroused old Steer's suspicions that he is believed to be intent on burglary. He is a seducer of a most unusual type, and is introduced to us while philosophising aloud over the essay of a freethinker. Of his love-making we are allowed to see and hear very little. He is as fond of soliloquy as the melancholy Jacques himself, and is chiefly occupied in holding forth upon the results of the "great democratic deluge" which is to sweep over us and destroy marriage, leaving us to our "elective affinities" and charging "the State" with the care of any children who may have the misfortune to be born into the world. When Eva roundly asks this sententious prig to make an honest woman of her he stands aghast at the notion of marriage, and calmly bids her "look at the birds who pair together for the season and then part." He is, in fact, as offensive and cold-blooded a villain as a dramatist has ever dared bring to a terrible poetic justice. At the end of the act he naturally deserts the girl who has trusted him, and as the curtain falls on the dance of the rustics gathered together at the farm to celebrate her father's birthday, she sits sadly apart watching the merriment which she cannot join. Up to this point there is very little in the plot, but the act is very short, and as the contrast of a powerful climax may be the playwright's intention, the audience as yet hopes for the best. Six years are supposed to elapse before the curtain again rises, and we learn by somewhat clumsy means that Eva, ruined by Edgar, crept away long ago to die; that her father is heart-broken and shattered in health; and that the faithful Dobson still loves Dora. A chorus of haymakers singing about "The Last Load Home" is pretty enough, thanks to Mr. Hamilton Clarke's tuneful music, and their talk is tolerably natural. But their introduction leads nowhere, inasmuch as none of them are allowed any real connection with the development or even exposition of the plot. What actually happens is that Edgar, returning to the village to moralise over his past misdeeds, meets Dora for the first time, and falls in love with her for her likeness to "poor Eva." To "poor Eva" he admits that he has behaved rather shabbily, "but," he says, "I will make amends; I will marry Dora." That this speech would be received with jeers was inevitable. For a heartless fellow to want to make Dora his wife, even under such circumstances as these, might be credible, though it must be repulsive. For him to talk, even to himself, of "making amends" by any such step was felt to be something very like a wicked burlesque. From this point Mr. Edgar, or, as he now calls himself, Mr. Harold ceases to have any *bonâ fide* dramatic significance. He was difficult to accept as a gay Lothario while he ponderously set forth his characteristics in formal exposition of his caricature of the free-thinker's creed. He is simply impossible now that he wins the heart of Eva's sister, and incurs once more the honest indignation of honest Farmer Dobson. Now, at the end of the second act all sympathy with the motive of the play has vanished; it can command respect only by some striking method of defeating villany, and punishing a villain. What, however, do we find in place of the poetic justice for which we fairly look? A long and pointless scene of wage-paying to farm labourers, apparently imitated directly from *The Squire*; an interview between Dora and the unhappy sister, who has secretly come home to beg forgiveness for her sin; the discovery that Edgar, the seducer, and Harold, the intended bridegroom, are one; and the death of Eva. There is nothing more, save, indeed, an extraordinary anticlimax in the shape of a long speech delivered by Dora over the body of her sister, who has died at her feet, killed by the shock of the discovery. When something has to be done someone is allowed to talk; and that is all. But it is enough—enough to show that to the author of *The Promise of May*, the secret, the art, the knack—call it what you will—of successful dramatic work has been denied. Graceful enough are the pictures suggested by the lines of Dora's song, lines which will linger pleasantly in the ear when all else in the play is willingly forgotten:—

The town lay still in the low sun-light,
The hen cluct late by the white farm gate,
The maid to her dairy came in from the cow,
The stock-dove coo'd at the fall of night,
The blossom had open'd on every bough.
O joy for the promise of May, of May,
O joy for the promise of May.
But a red fire woke in the heart of the town,
And a fox from the glen ran away with the hen,
And a cat to the cream, and a rat to the cheese,
And the stock-dove coo'd till a kite dropped down,
And a salt wind burnt the blossoming trees.
O grief for the promise of May, of May,
O grief for the promise of May.

SINKING OF THE S.S. "AUSTRAL."

Lloyd's agent at Sydney telegraphs, under date Nov. 11:—"The *Austral*, steamer, belonging to the Orient Steam Navigation Company, capsized and sank at her moorings in 40ft. of water while coaling. She had part of her inward cargo on board—200 tons of iron. Divers have been engaged. Weather is favourable for operations. The *Austral*, from London, arrived at Sydney, New South Wales, on November 3."

A further telegram states:—"It cannot be ascertained yet whether there is any loss of life; the crew were not mustered. Immediate arrangements are being made to raise the steamer. Fifteen hundred tons of coal were on board, but only 200 tons of iron. The cause of the accident is not yet ascertained."

A telegram through Reuter's Agency from Sydney, dated Nov. 12, says:—"A belief which was at first entertained that the foundering of the Orient steamer *Austral* had entailed no loss of life proves to have been mistaken. The purser and four of the crew were drowned."

The sinking of so large and perfectly constructed a vessel as the *Austral*, when lying at rest in harbour, is an unprecedented incident in naval disaster. At the time she was open to public inspection in St. Katharine's Docks, not seven months ago, she was pronounced by experts to be practically unsinkable; and so far her behaviour at sea has justified that assumption. The conditions, however, under which vessels of this size put to sea appear to contribute in a far greater degree to safety than those which prevail when in port. The telegrams reporting the catastrophe are necessarily meagre, but sufficient has reached us to give some clue to its cause. The *Austral* arrived at Sydney on the 3d inst. She had steamed at low pressure from the Cape owing to some derangement of her high-pressure valve gear; but still reached her destination within three days of her time. Her cargo was discharged with the exception of 200 tons of iron, and on Friday she was lying in perfect safety at her moorings. Her period of departure had been delayed slightly to enable the high-pressure valve to be repaired and consequently there was no need of haste on the part of those in charge, either in respect of coaling or taking in cargo. The coaling appears to have been carried on through Friday night, and was going on at 4 in the morning of Saturday, when the catastrophe occurred. The coal is taken on board steamers of the size and character of the *Austral* through large portholes at the sides of the ship placed below the line of ordinary portholes and furnished with shoots. These coaling portholes are, of course, tightly closed before the vessel puts to sea, but when in harbour they are opened for loading and coaling. In a large harbour, such as Sydney, a swell or breeze might spring up sufficiently menacing to make it advisable to close them even when the vessel is at her moorings, but nothing has reached London to indicate that Sydney harbour was otherwise than calm on Saturday morning. The telegrams state that 1,500 tons of coal had been taken in, and it is certain that had this been trimmed so as to be below the water-line it would have added greatly to the stability of the vessel. If the trimming had been completely neglected it is ascertained by calculation that as much as 1,000 tons of the coal might have remained above the water-line; but, although this would have detracted from the stability of the ship, it would not alone have been sufficient to cause the disaster, nor even to risk the safety of the steamer. We must look, therefore, for some other condition to account for what has happened; and the most feasible hypothesis is suggested by a telegram to the effect that the water ballast had been pumped out before the vessel was in a position to make its removal advisable. The water ballast is contained in tanks placed near the keel, and is always pumped in by steam-power as the cargo is removed, so as to give the vessel the necessary stability as she is lightened. The *Austral's* tanks were capable of holding 800 tons; and that this was sufficient was demonstrated during the passage of the vessel from the Clyde to the Thames last April, when she carried absolutely nothing but water ballast. The order to pump out the water ballast must have been given on the assumption that the coal taken in had been properly trimmed, because the only excuse for removing he ballast would be that the coal had taken its place. The ship was in the water sufficiently deep to render the amount of her draught of no consequence. The coal being untrimmed and the water ballast having been removed, it will be easily understood that the vessel would become top-heavy. Any pressure on the side, arising from either wind or tide, would cause her to lean a little over, and the force exerted by the top weight would then act with greatly increased leverage. If the water ballast had been only partially removed the danger would be increased, because every addition to the mass of untrimmed coal would cause the vessel to lean and bring the water in the half-filled tanks to the same side to add to the inequality. Immediately the edge of the open coal ports had been brought below the level of the water, even for a few minutes only, the catastrophe was inevitable. Owing to the fact that the purser, named Perkins, and four of the crew have been drowned, there will be an official inquiry.

THE INDIAN SOLDIERS IN LONDON.

Opportunities for the Indian contigent to see and be seen follow each other in such rapid succession that at the present rate all the principal lions of London will have been exhausted, says the *Daily News*, long before the time arrives for these interesting visitors to depart from among us. For the present, however, custom cannot be said to have staled the variety of spectacles by which these Indian warriors declare that they have been greatly impressed. Among themselves the topic of chief importance, however, is still the reception that was accorded to them in the House of Commons on Friday night. They wondered greatly at it, even before they could quite grasp the full meaning of a scene so strange, but since it has been explained to them that never before have members of Parliament cheered distinguished strangers in the gallery, their gratification has been expressed with a warmth altogether unusual among Orientals. By way of contrast to this scene of enthusiasm, they were taken on Saturday morning to the National Gallery, where they were certainly in no danger of being subject to similar excitement. Driving first to the United Service Club they were received there by General Sir Paul Haines, late commander-in-chief of the Indian army; Major-General Dillon, assistant military secretary at the War Office; Major-General Bowie, late of the Bengal Artillery; Major General C. E. Hill, late of the Madras Engineers, and other officers who have seen much service in India. Accompanied by most of these, and under the charge of Colonel Pennington and Captain Macbay, the detachment then drove to the National Gallery. Of the examples of ancient and modern art there displayed many of the officers and men showed a lively and very intelligent appreciation. They were especially attracted by the warmth and colour of the full-blooded Renaissance, probably because the works of that school presented a style of art least like any with which they had been previously acquainted. After spending some time in looking at these pictures they returned again to the United Service Club, and drove from there back to Wimbledon. At night the officers paid a visit to Drury Lane Theatre, where their appearance was greeted with great enthusiasm. All in the house rose and cheered vehemently, in acknowledgment of which the visitors came to the front of their boxes and saluted in soldierly fashion. After the collision scene in *Pluck* Mr. Augustus Harris invited them to go behind the scenes, and explained all the stage mechanism. They stayed until the end of the play, and were again loudly cheered as they left the theatre. On Sunday afternoon nearly all of the contingent went to the Zoological Gardens. Their visit was intended to be private, and in deference to this wish there was no formal reception on the part of the officials or fellows. Chill November weather kept many of the habitual Sunday promenaders away, and the Oriental visitors were enabled to move freely about the grounds without the embarrassing presence of too-curious gazers. They were greatly delighted by many of the novel sights there presented, and spent nearly two hours in the gardens. Their enjoyment must have been considerably lessened by the depressing influences of dull wintry weather; but they had at all events an admirable opportunity of seeing a true November fog. As they drove back to Wimbledon in the twilight many of them glad enough to huddle inside their vehicles, wrapping themselves closely about with great coats and rugs; but a few hardier natives of the hills boldly placed themselves on the top of the two 'buses, as if defying the worst that the English climate could offer. It is announced that on Thursday next the party will visit the Alhambra Theatre.

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Great-Britain.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 13—14, 1882.

BRITISH TROOPS IN EGYPT.

We may reasonably assume that the Cabinet Council which was held on Monday discussed the nature and limits of the information which Mr. Gladstone has promised to give as to the employment of our troops in Egypt. He will naturally be anxious to go as far as he can, in order, if possible, to prevent a debate from which the Government, indeed, has nothing to fear, but which may be productive of serious inconvenience, and will at the best lead to waste of time and needless prolongation of the session. It is obvious that, except in the most guarded and general manner, Mr. Gladstone cannot consistently with his duty to the country travel very far beyond the existing phase of Egyptian affairs. That destiny to which Jove himself had to bow has shaped our policy hitherto, and its decrees will have to be waited upon to the end. We have from time to time set forth what we believe to be the course which the evolution of events will compel England to follow. But, however a responsible Minister may read the oracles, he is not justified in exciting a contingent opposition by setting forth a contingent policy. It is enough for him to justify what has actually been done or is doing, and to trust to events to vindicate the policy they may dictate. The general situation has been tersely and accurately set forth in the remark that "England may not want to keep Egypt, but Egypt will keep England." From a distance it may be easy enough to ignore the impossibility of leaving Egypt to herself, but the more closely the actual details of the case are looked at, the more evident must it become to every candid man that for a long and indefinite period there can be no honest and stable government in Egypt, except under the tutelage in some form or other of this country. That Egypt should be governed by the Egyptians is, as Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice observed in his pithy and straightforward speech at the Colston Banquet, a very taking phrase, but a very deceptive one. It simply means that a general scramble is to take place among the Ismails, Halims, and Arabis of the East for the rulership of the country. It does not matter one straw who gets the prize, the result for the Egyptians and for the world would be the same. Arbitrary power will be re-established, and with it the whole system of corruption and intrigue which takes the place of government in every Oriental State. So much for the Egyptians. But this country moreover has interests which cannot be left at the mercy of any adventurer who may snatch at power. The Suez Canal has had one very narrow escape, and we should be very foolish if we ran the risk again. M. de Lesseps did us a great service in serving himself when he persuaded Arabi not to touch the Canal, but his eloquence would be thrown away upon any usurper who should repeat Arabi's exploit. It is too much forgotten that the Canal is not a thing apart from Egypt. We cannot protect it and yet leave Egypt a prey to anarchy. The key of the Canal is in Cairo, because there is no fresh water nearer than the Nile.—*Times.*

THE PROSPECT IN IRELAND.

Is there any hope that the tranquillity in Ireland will last? Facts plainly answer in the negative. The followers of Mr. Parnell, not to speak of those of Mr. Dillon, Mr. Davitt, and Mr. Egan, are no more satisfied with the plunder they have secured than they were before the passing of the Land and Arrears Acts. We have only to note the recent public utterances of the Irish leaders to see this written with fatal clearness. The opinion of moderate people the world over is that those two agrarian measures constituted one of the greatest concessions to sedition recorded in history. Are the persons who received that bribe contented or even grateful? Mr. Davitt, when lately addressing a Land League meeting, expressed the utmost dissatisfaction with the results of the great agrarian movement of the last three years. There had been a mountain of agitation, he said, and only a mouse of a land-measure. And Mr. Davitt conclued by calling on the agricultural labourers, "who comprise the manhood of Ireland," to look beyond the tenant farmers for their enemy, and to "attack the pernicious system of land monopoly, until land monopoly had been struck down." This language is certainly plain enough in its terms and distinct enough in its meaning. That the destruction of "land monopoly" would not satisfy the Irish faction was shown by the programme of the National Organization which was announced at the late conference in Dublin. The first item on that programme is "national self-government," and those that follow are scarcely less revolutionary. To pretend, as Mr. Gladstone does, that a measure of local self-government for Ireland would restore peace and contentment to that unhappy country is an insult to every person of average intelligence. That the Government are prepared to yield more and more, as time goes on, to the Irish "Party of Progress" is only too plain. Apart from the Prime Minister's repeated encouragement of a fresh agitation for Home Rule, we have had equally significant declarations from other members of the Administration. Mr. Trevelyan, not long ago, told an Irish audience that "if the hopes of the Government are disappointed—if it turns out that the Land Act is no longer worked in the spirit in which it was intended to be worked—you may be quite certain that no pride, no self-esteem, no unwillingness on the part of the Government to confess that they were wrong," will prevent them from "revising" that measure. No pride and no self-esteem before Irish seditionists—that is the one constant and consistent attitude of the Government. Is it one that deserves the confidence of the country, or that is likely much longer to retain it?—*Morning Post.*

EGYPT.

DESPATCH OF TROOPS TO THE SOUDAN.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Monday evening:—

Baker Pacha's scheme for the reorganisation of the Egyptian army has so far progressed that a thousand men have already been equipped and despatched for the Soudan. Much greater progress would have been made were it not for the altogether unaccountable delay upon the part of the British Government in expressing their definite views on the subject. As the real masters of Egypt at present, it is absolutely necessary that their assent should be obtained before the work of reorganisation is carried out to any extent, as the consequences would be very serious were they to step in with their veto when the scheme is on the point of completion. This delay is very seriously hampering Baker Pacha's work, and that at a moment when the general state of the country is critical, and the situation in the Soudan is in the highest degree urgent and dangerous. Objections are still urged against the scheme in various organs of public opinion, which continue to ignore the fact that the original scheme for recruitment abroad has been wholly abandoned, and that the Army as reconstituted by Baker Pacha will, as before, be a purely Egyptian force—with the exception of a certain number of English officers—recruited from the most trustworthy elements of the national forces recently disbanded. In addition, there will be a small corps of picked Albanian riflemen, an element already familiar in Egypt. The Commission of Inquiry have issued a decree repudiating the rules of procedure agreed upon between Borelli Bey, the Public Prosecutor acting on their behalf, and the Counsel for the defence. The Commission have recognised these rules, and have acted upon them for the last three weeks, and they were examined and confirmed by the Council of Ministers. Their repudiation now is consequently a most extraordinary step. The Commission declare in their decree that they limit the whole defence, including the cross-examination of the witnesses, to four weeks; that they forbid any direct examination, and that their own records of evidence are to be taken as binding upon both parties. Mr. Broadley has declined to accept this arrangement, and has appealed to the Khedive. It is believed that the Egyptian Government will quash the decree of the Commission, holding that Borelli Bey acted for them, and that they cannot now withdraw from the agreement which he made. The first attempt on the part of the Commission to thwart the course of free inquiry has created much suspicion here and has silenced those who have hitherto supported it. It is impossible to name any date even approximately for the commencement of the trial, and there are still very many who believe that it will never take place.

THE MAAMTRASNA MURDER TRIAL.

At the Dublin Commission Court on Monday, before Mr. Justice Barry, one of the most remarkable murder trials that has perhaps ever taken place in Ireland commenced. Its direct connection with the land agitation, and the terrible nature of the crime with which the accused are charged, has evoked unusual interest, which has been intensified by the knowledge that the Irish Executive Government, with the assistance of the police department, have spared no effort, and have put in operation all the machinery of the law at their disposal to bring to justice the perpetrators of what is now know as the "Maamtrasna massacre." Since the 18th of August, when all the Joyce family, with one exception, were slaughtered, the chain of circumstances has been put together with such completeness as to bring before the public the deed in all its horror and devilish malignity. Some time since, it would be remembered, two bailiffs in the service of Lord Ardilaun were employed serving writs, and on one of their excursions they disappeared, and were never again seen alive. The result of a search and of diving operations in Lough Mask was the finding of the two bodies bound in a sack weighted with stones. Soon after this a rumour was spread abroad that the Government had received important information as to the parties guilty of this terrible murder, and the district, which was filled with soldiers, police, and detectives, was in a general state of expectation. This brings us up to the Maamtrasna massacre. Maamtrasna is a part of Connemara, almost inaccessible; hemmed in on the east by Lough Mask, and north, south, and west by high mountains, so that access can only be gained to it by ferry-boat. Here the Joyce family, consisting of grandmother, husband, and wife, and three children lived in a miserable hovel. On the morning of the 19th August, a neighbour went to Joyce's cabin to borrow some cards for spinning wool, and found John Joyce, the father, lying dead on the floor. His body was naked, and partly covered with a blanket; he had two bullet wounds in the back; one bullet had entered the lungs, and the other the liver; the back of his head had also been smashed by some blunt instrument. The neighbours were at once alarmed and they entered the house. The dead bodies of Joyce's wife and grandmother, and Joyce's daughter, were then discovered. The wife, daughter, and grandmother lay in their beds, having been bludgeoned to death; the two sons, Michael and Patrick lay wounded. Michael had been shot below the ear, and the bullet afterwards dropped out. This youth, who was only seventeen, was also shot below the right side, and the bullet lodged in the vertebral column. He lingered long enough to tell the police that he was shot in bed by two men; he saw them beating his sister with a stick on the head, and heard his grandmother cry out. At daybreak he saw his father lying dead, and then crept into the bed where his mother, who was then still living, lay. He heard shots fired and saw other men with blackened faces. The second son, Patrick, though injured, recovered. The medical men who examined the dead bodies were of opinion that the three females were killed with a spade; their heads were pommelled and their skulls fractured, the brains protruding. It was evident from the position of Joyce's body that, hearing some men entering his house, he got out of bed and was then shot down. The boy Patrick was rendered insensible by blows, and the murderers thought him dead. The wife's body presented a terrible appearance. Her hands were clenched, and one of them contained a quantity of hair which she dragged from her head in the agony of her sufferings. Her face was disfigured almost past recognition by the murderous blows. At the inquest no one was incriminated by the evidence, and an open verdict was returned. One ghastly incident of the tragedy was that before the bodies were removed for burial they were got at by pigs, and shockingly mutilated. A dog was found in bed at the side of one of the corpses, and it is thought the faithful animal got there to protect the remains from the pigs. Only a day or so had elapsed after the massacre, when the detectives obtained important evidence; in fact, witnesses were obtained who saw a body of men march to Joyce's house, and from under a hedge recognised them. The reason generally assigned for the massacre is that Mrs. Joyce had witnessed the sinking in the lake of the bodies of Lord Ardilaun's bailiffs, and after some time had told the names of the persons concerned in the affair mentioned. This conversation was overheard by one of their sons, who, being bullied at school by another boy, cried out, "I suppose you want to murder me and throw me into the lake as your father did the bailiffs." The boy having repeated this to his father, the latter and his confederates determined upon the massacre of the whole family, in order to put out of the way any witnesses of their former guilt.

Only one prisoner was placed in the dock on Monday, namely, a full namesake of the head of the murdered family. John Joyce, the prisoner, is about 40 years of age, wears a fair beard and moustache, and appears to be intelligent beyond the average of the people in the remote part of the western highlands, from which he comes. The Attorney-General, Mr. Murphy, Q.C., Mr. P. O'Brien, Q.C., and Mr. Sullivan, instructed by Mr. Bolton, prosecuted; Mr. George Orms Malley, Q.C., and Mr. Stritch, instructed by Mr. Concannon, defended. Counsel for the prisoner made an application for an adjournment at the sitting on the ground that a change of venue to Galway would be necessary to enable the jury to view the scene of the outrage, which they believed was essential for the ends of justice. The application was opposed by the Attorney-General, and was refused. Mr. Malley applied for an adjournment on the ground of surprise and new evidence. They had received notice from the Crown that one of the prisoners had turned approver, but beyond that they had not got any idea of the nature of his evidence. The Attorney-General said counsel on the other side had received notice containing the substance of the evidence to be given by the approver, namely, that he accompanied the prisoners to the house of the Joyces on the night of the murders, and saw the door broken in by three of the prisoners, whom he named. He remained outside, and heard screams and shouts after the men had entered. That was in fact all his evidence, and it was merely in corroboration of the evidence of the other witnesses of the Crown. It was no doubt an inconvenient matter for the perpetrators of the slaughter. Judge Barry said if there could be any distinct matter of surprise shown he would not hesitate to adjourn the trial, but the new evidence was exactly the same as appeared in the depositions already. The jurors were then called, and the prisoner arraigned for the murder of John Joyce, the father; and in a much briefer period than had been anticipated a jury was empannelled. The prisoner did not exhaust the twenty challenges he was entitled to make. The Crown ordered nearly all the jurors of the farming class to stand by, while the prisoner challenged the large city traders and the English or Scotch jurors. The first witness called was a middle-aged man named John Collins, who gave his evidence in Irish, and it was interpreted to the Court. He described briefly how he came at daybreak to the house of the Joyces, saw the terrible state of things, and ran off to warn the neighbours. Sub-constable Johnston, who was in the party of police who were sent for, also described the interior of the dwelling and the position in which he found the bodies. His evidence as to the presence of the two dogs who ate the flesh off the arm of the old woman as it hung over the bed caused a sensation in court. Revolver bullets were found in the father's body—one in the back, another in the jaw. Four bullets in all were found. They were all revolver bullets, and were three sizes, which must have been fired from three descriptions of revolvers. Witness produced the bullets found in John Joyce's body and in one of the beds. A middle-aged man, named Anthony Joyce, whose evidence was given in Irish, and was interpreted, was examined. He deposed that on the night of the 17th of August he was awakened by his dog barking, and on looking out he saw several men on an old road above his house. He got out and went to the back of his house, and saw the men close enough to identify them as Philbin, Casey, Martin Joyce, Michael Joyce, Thomas Joyce, and Patrick Joyce. Four of the men he had known since he grew up. The others, Philbin and Casey, he knew well. He went a short cut to his brother's house, and found the family in bed. The brother, John Joyce, got up, and his son Patrick. The three went after the people to see what they were doing. They found them going towards the house of Michael Casey. Witness and the two others remained in the garden of Casey's house. Ten men came out of the house. The four others were Pat Joyce, the prisoner, Michael Casey, Patrick Casey, and John Casey. The ten men went towards Maamtrasna. Witness, his brother, and nephew, followed them out on a boreen towards Joyce's house at Maamtrasna. The men went to the house. Witness heard a noise of hammering at the door. Witness and the two others were at the foot of a bush in the garden. He could see that some of the men went in, and some remained outside. They heard great noise of people inside screeching—he could not say whether of men or women. They did not wait to hear more; they ran back to their homes. Witness went to his brother John's house, and remained there until it was coming daylight. He afterwards saw the men arrested, and identified them.—Cross examined by Mr. Malley—He was in his shirt when he first saw the men, and he then put on his trousers and jacket, but did not wait to put on his boots. He changed his place of concealment in the garden when the men were coming out of Casey's house, but he could not say which of them went in first or which came out last.—The Court then adjourned. Special bailiffs were sworn to prevent the jury communicating with the public. The constabulary have arrested another prisoner for alleged participation in the murder.

WHO IS THE RIGHTFUL CLAIMANT?—The parishioners of Loughton are making some very natural inquiries about a fund called the Commoners' Compensation Fund. The fund, it seems, has accrued from the sale, at different times, of pieces of common or lammas land. A portion of it, amounting to £2,346, is invested in Consols in the names of trustees, but another portion, the amount of which is not clearly known, is managed by a committee appointed at a vestry meeting. The parishioners, by a formal resolution, are now asking the committee whether this fund has been invested, and, if not, whether they are prepared to pay the interest upon it from the time when it came into their possession. But light is needed on many more points than this. Nobody is quite sure, says *Land*, to whom the money really belongs, but everybody is taking the wise precaution to claim it. The commoners, the freeholders, the copyholders, and the lord of the manor are all holding out their expectant hands.

THE GREAT COMET.—This object has been very conspicuous from about three to six a. m. during the past few days. The diminution in its intrinsic brightness has been to some extent neutralised by the absence of moonlight and the clear state of the atmosphere. On Saturday morning it was visible to the naked eye until a few minutes before meridian passage, so it may have been observed with the transit instruments at some of our observatories. At the same time its tail appeared to have become much broader, especially towards the end, where a distinct curvature was visible. The side near the horizon appeared very bright for about eight degrees from the nucleus, the other side being considerably fainter. Several stars were distinctly visible through the tail. The green cometary band, as seen in the spectroscope, has been very distinct, and it is not unlikely that some lines may be discovered in it, as the bands in other comets have generally been much more diffused, and consequently prevented the discovery of any lines that may have been present.

PARLIAMENTARY SUMMARY.

In the House of Commons on Monday, Lord George Hamilton gave notice that he will to-day ask Mr. Childers why the review of troops returned from Egypt should not be held in Hyde-park, where the public might see it. There was a storm of questions with respect to the imprisonment and trial of Arabi Pacha, Mr. Bourke, Mr. Gorst, Sir Henry Wolff, Lord R. Churchill, Mr. Labouchere, Lord John Manners, and Mr. Onslow joining in. In various replies Sir Charles Dilke repeated the statement frequently given with respect to the constitution of the Court. Sir Charles Dilke now added that no arrangement had been made between her Majesty's Government and the Egyptian Government as to the crimes charged against Arabi, or the punishment appertaining to them. The Government knew nothing except that Arabi was to be tried according to Egyptian law. In reply to Sir Stafford Northcote, Mr. Gladstone said it was intended to submit proposals for making the rules respecting Standing Committees operative over next session only. In reply to another question from the leader of the Opposition, the Premier said he was not prepared while judicial proceedings were pending to name a day for a discussion on the trial of Arabi, but if there were any proposal to pronounce a censure as to the general conduct of affairs in Egypt it would be the duty of Government to give for its discussion the earliest day in their power. To Mr. Molloy, Mr. Gladstone said he entertained no doubt that Arabi would not be put to death without the assent of her Majesty's Government. The questions on the paper being disposed of, Lord Randolph Churchill rose, and with the observation that as this might be the last occasion on which liberty of speech would be enjoyed in the House he would conclude with a motion, an announcement received with cries of anguish from the Liberal benches. The noble lord had not preceded far when Dr. Cameron rose and drew attention to the ruling of the Speaker in June, '81. Dr. Cameron had then moved the adjournment of the House with the intention of remarking on the arrangements of the Local Government Board with respect to small-pox patients. Mr. Tom Collins then called the Speaker's attention to the fact that Dr. Cameron had on the paper a motion relating to the same subject, and the Speaker ruled (in accordance with a well-known statute of the House) that the hon. member was out of order in proceeding with his motion. Dr. Cameron now asked whether Lord Randolph was in order in discussing the subject of Arabi's imprisonment, seeing that Mr. Bourke had an amendment on the paper relating to it. The Speaker ruled that Lord Randolph Churchill was out of order. The noble lord then attempted to proceed in another direction, but speedily came in contact with a second motion, which Dr. Cameron had placed on the paper. He was again ruled out of order and resumed his seat after having, as Mr. Gladstone remarked, shown his usual inaccuracy in his statements of facts. Mr. Gorst attempting to continue the discussion, Dr. Cameron again interposed, and, amid much laughter, Mr. Gorst was ruled out of order on the same ground as Lord Randolph Churchill had been stopped. Mr. Gorst, abandoning his intention of pursuing the subject, turned upon Dr. Cameron, and severely rebuked him for being an instrument in the hands of the Government, and placing on the paper this amendment with the object of stifling discussion. Dr. Cameron then explained, amid frequent bursts of laughter, that when in 1881 he had been ruled out of order he announced his intention of withdrawing his resolution from the paper, and, having so placed himself in order, renewing his motion for adjournment at question time, Lord Randolph had thereupon taken his amendment and replaced it on the paper in his own name, thus frustrating Dr. Cameron's intention. Dr. Cameron had profited by this hint, and amid renewed laughter he thanked Lord R Churchill for the lesson. Lord Randolph offered to withdraw his motion for adjournment, but, leave being refused, it was negatived; and after an unexpectedly brief interruption the business of the House was proceeded with. On the motion of Lord Richard Grosvenor a new writ was ordered to be issued for Salisbury for an election to fill the place of Mr. Grenfell, who has accepted office as one of the Grooms-in-Waiting. The Speaker read a letter from Mr. Bradlaugh, in which he claimed permission to appear at the bar of the House and state the grounds on which he claimed his seat. Mr. Labouchere gave notice that on the first opportunity consistent with the rules of the House he would move that permission be given. Mr. Newdegate, interposing, was ruled out of order, there being before the House no subject for debate. Mr. Newdegate thereupon undertook to move the adjournment whilst he stated, as a matter within his own knowledge—that an allegation made by Mr. Bradlaugh, that "his case stood on all-fours with Mr. Salomon's" was an absolute mistake. Having with great solemnity given utterance to this remark, Mr. Newdegate withdrew his motion, which, by-the-by, had not been put. Mr. Gladstone moved the second resolution on Procedure, which provides that no motion for adjournment shall be made at question-time except by leave of the House. Such leave, if disputed, is to be determined by a division taken without debate, but no division is to be taken unless demanded by 40 members rising in their places. Sir Henry Wolff moved an amendment restricting the operation of this rule to Government nights. This was deprecated by Sir Stafford Northcote, Mr. W. H. Smith, and other Conservative authorities. After two hours' discussion it was withdrawn. In the course of the conversation the Conservatives showed a strong liking for an amendment standing lower down on the paper in the name of Mr. H. Fowler. This, if adopted, would dispense with a division altogether, and grant to a member the privilege of moving the adjournment at question-time if supported by 39 other members. Mr. Gladstone intimated that if when this was reached the evident sense of the House appeared to be in its favour, the Government would not stand by their own terms, for which they still had a preference. Lord R. Churchill next moved an amendment limiting the operation of the rule "while the Committee of Supply is opened." On a division this was negatived by 87 against 50. On another amendment practically destroying the resolution, the noble lord fell under the lash of the Premier. In the course of moving his amendment he had referred to what he called "The Kilmainham Treaty," and had declared that Mr. Forster had habitually provoked the Irish members by his manner of answering questions. In reply to the first, Mr. Gladstone, whilst protesting against the introduction of these subjects into debate, emphatically declared "there was no Kilmainham Treaty," at which Mr. Reginald Yorke derisively laughed. "If the hon. member doubts that, I challenge him to move for an inquiry," the Premier indignantly added. Openly incited by Lord Randolph Churchill, Mr. Yorke asked whether if he did move a day would be given to him? To which Mr. Gladstone replied that his motion would not be opposed. As to the reference to Mr. Forster the Premier declared that to bring such a charge without notice, and in the absence of the right hon. gentleman attacked, was "totally unworthy of any member of this House." The House was still engaged on the amendments to the second resolution when the adjournment took place.

THE INDIAN SOLDIERS IN LONDON

The native officers of the Indian Contingent, accompanied by Sir Henry Daly, Colonel Pennington, and Captain MacBay, paid a visit to Mr. Gladstone, at his official residence in Downing-street on Monday morning. The party, all of whom were in full uniform, drove from Wimbledon in two omnibuses, and arrived almost unobserved, no public notice having been given of their intention. They reached Downing-street exactly at twelve o'clock, and were at once shown into the deputation-room, where they formed up in a semi-circle, and immediately afterwards were joined by the Premier, who was accompanied by Mrs. and Miss Gladstone, and Mr. Hamilton (Private Secretary). — Sir Henry Daly, after introducing Colonel Pennington and Captain MacBay to Mr. Gladstone, also performed the same ceremony with the native officers, at the same time explaining every individual's services. As each officer approached the Premier he saluted, and held out the hilt of his sword to be touched, after which Mr. Gladstone cordially shook hands. The right hon. gentleman, who expressed himself as very much interested, asked a number of questions with reference to the parts of the country from which the various officers came, the strength of their regiments, and other matters. Two of the native officers were able to converse in English, and answer questions for themselves. When the last of the officers had been introduced and greeted, Mr. Gladstone addressed a few words to the Contingent, which were afterwards translated by Sir Henry Daly. It had been, he said, a very great and lively pleasure to him to meet them there. The only drawback was that he could not use words understood by them all. There was but one thing of which he would venture to assure them—that the Queen not only placed value upon their services, but that she had exactly the same confidence in their disposition and their ability to render good service as she had in those of English-born soldiers. All the officers were then introduced to Mrs. Gladstone, who conversed through Sir Henry Daly with several. The cold morning compelled the whole party to wear their overcoats, but these were discarded in the house, and the officers appeared decorated with their numerous medals and stars. After leaving Downing-street the Contingent went to Cambridge House, where they were received by the Commander-in-Chief, afterwards returning to Wimbledon.

THE ATTEMPT TO SHOOT JUDGE LAWSON.

In the Dublin Southern Divisional Police-court on Monday, Peter Delaney, the young man arrested on Saturday evening for the attempted assassination of Judge Lawson, was charged before Mr. Curran, Q.C., with having seized a revolver which he had in his pocket, with intent to discharge it at Mr. Justice Lawson, and murder him. The prisoner is about thirty years of age, and is of slight build. He is under middle height, and is of fair complexion. He was brought from College-street Police-station to the Court in a cab. No demonstration of feeling was made. At the Police-court large numbers of persons were assembled, but few people were admitted to the Court. Mr. Jas. Murphy, Crown solicitor, appeared for the prosecution; Mr. Gerald Byrne, solicitor, defended.

Corporal Charles M'Donnell, examined by Mr. Murphy, said:—I am a constable-in-aid protecting Judge Lawson. I am a retired non-commissioned officer of the 13th Hussars. I was on duty on Saturday last. I remember Judge Lawson leaving his own house in Fitzwilliam-street about five minutes after o'clock in this afternoon. He was accompanied by his young son—Mr. Henry Lawson. Two of the Metropolitan police—Lalor and Brennan—were in attendance on the Judge in plain clothes. Myself and another constable-in-aid—named Darker—walked after the Judge. Darker is a retired non-commissioned officer of the Royal Artillery. It was dark when we left the house, and it was a misty evening. When the Judge left his residence in Upper Fitzwilliam-street we proceeded down the east side of Merrion-square and along Merrion-square North. The Judge and his son were in front, followed by Lalor, Brennan, myself, and Darker a few paces behind. Just as we reached about No. 11, on the north side of Merrion-square, a man came up to me on the outside of me next the roadway. Pinching me on the left arm, he said, "It is all right." He then passed on, and got between me and the two constables. Judge Lawson and his son passed over the crossing at Lower Merrion-street to the south side of Clare-street, followed by the two members of the Metropolitan Police. The prisoner continued on the north side, and I continued to follow him. When Judge Lawson crossed the street it gave the prisoner an opportunity of keeping abreast of him. I continued to follow the prisoner, keeping two paces behind him. When we came to Lincoln-place he crossed over to the college railings. I crossed after him, still keeping close to him. I watched him closely from the moment he had pinched me on the arm. When he crossed to the College-street railings he was on a line with the judge. The prisoner continued to walk on by the college railings side, along Nassau-street, and I was close to him all through. When we arrived opposite Kildare-street Club, the prisoner turned sharply to his left and bolted across the street, right underneath the bay window of the club that looks out on the street and College Park. At that moment the judge was within five yards of the bay window. He was advancing towards it, but had not come up to it. I followed the Prisoner at once. I then observed his hand in his breast pocket. He faced about, and looked directly in Judge Lawson's face. He was then almost two yards from him, with his right hand still in his breast. This was on the footpath, exactly underneath the bay window of the club. I immediately knocked the Prisoner down by giving him the hand and foot, and grasped the hand he had in his breast and found this hand on the butt of the revolver. I caught the revolver as well, and we both rolled over on the path and struggled for possession of the weapon. The other three constables came to my assistance at once. Constable Lalor seized the Prisoner's arms, and I wrenched the revolver from his grasp. After securing the revolver I examined it by pressing back the spring, and found it was loaded in six chambers. I then for safety placed it in my pocket open. On the way to the station those three cartridges (produced) fell out into my pocket, and the other three remained in it when I gave it to the inspector at the station. It is a terrible weapon—a self-extracting revolver of most extraordinary size. I proceeded to the Police-office in company with the Prisoner. When on the way to the station I saw the Prisoner throw a parcel down, and Constable Lalor picked it up. At the Police-station the Prisoner threatened me, and when I charged him he said it was as likely that I had a revolver as well as he.

You spoke about being touched on the arm. Did you then say something to your companion?—I did, and he then fell back. Did he join you before that struggle was on?—Yes; he came to my assistance when I was on the ground. Cross-examined by Mr. Byrne: Was it the railing or the street side the prisoner passed you?—At the street side. Did he pass you on the pathway or on the roadway?—On the pathway. Was he near the edge of the path?—He was close to the side of the path. Was his topcoat open when he passed you?—I did not notice it. He did not draw the revolver out, or anything?—No, he had not the opportunity. You were very quick up?—I was. Was he across at the club side in Leinster-street before you left the side you were on?—I followed him close up. How far were you behind him?—About two yards. All through?—Yes. When he bolted across he merely had time to turn?—Yes. What did you do when you came up to him?—I gave him the hand and foot and put him down. Mr. Curran, addressing the witness, said:—Charles M'Donnell, without anticipating in the least the result of this trial, but presuming for a moment that the prisoner had the intention to commit the crime with which he is charged, I must say that not only Mr. Justice Lawson, but the citizens of Dublin generally, owe you a debt of gratitude for the promptness and courage you displayed, which not only saved the life of an eminent Judge, but saved the city from the stain of a terrible crime. The prisoner was remanded for a week, and was then removed to goal, under a strong escort of mounted police.

In the Queen's Bench on Monday there was a demonstration of the Bar of Ireland to congratulate Judge Lawson on his escape. Judge Lawson, on taking his seat, was greeted with cheers, which he put up his hand to suppress. Mr. Serjeant Robinson said:—My Lord, on behalf of the Bar, I desire to congratulate your Lordship on your providential escape from the hands of an assassin. We trust your Lordship may be long spared to preside on that bench, of which you are so distinguished an ornament, and to administer justice with firmness and impartiality. (Applause.) Mr. Justice Lawson.—I assure you, Serjeant, I was quite unprepared for this express on of feeling on behalf of the bar. I know I have their good wishes and sympathy always, and I desire to thank them. At the same time, as this matter is at present the subject of legal investigation, we should not do anything which would in the least prejudice or interfere with the course of justice. Therefore, I can only say, as far as my personal opinion, is concerned, I am gratified with this expression of opinion, which came upon me by surprise. (Cheers.)

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

Mr. H. H. Bancroft's "History of the Pacific States" will appear in no less than 25 volumes.

Miss Rhoda Broughton's new novel is to be called "Belinda." The first chapters will appear in the January number of *Temple Bar*.

Mr. Cornelius Walford has just completed a new work on "Ancient and Modern Fairs," which will be published in the first series of the "Antiquaries Library."

Messrs. Cassell, Petter, Galpin, and Co. will shortly publish the conclusion of Sir Gavan Duffy's "Young Ireland," under the title of "Four Years of Irish History, 1845-1849."

Professor Nichol, of Glasgow University, has in the press a work on American literature which, in the form of an historical sketch, will bring under review the writers of America from the colonial period down to the present time.

We are glad to hear, says the *Athenæum*, that there is in preparation a "Dictionary of National Biography," in a large number of volumes, to be published quarterly by Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co. Mr. Leslie Stephen has accepted the arduous duty of editing this important work, and many of the readers of the *Cornhill Magazine* will regret to learn that this new claim on his time and attention will necessitate his relinquishing the editorship of a magazine which he has for many years successfully conducted.

Messrs. Cassell and Co. will shortly publish the conclusion of Sir Gavan Duffy's "Young Ireland," under the title of "Four Years of Irish History, 1845—49." It deals with memorable incidents in the modern history of Ireland—the secession by which the authority of O'Connell was overthrown, his compact with the Whigs, the great famine, and, for the first time, the secret history, minutes of council, and private correspondence connected with the abortive insurrection headed by Smith O'Brien. The book is written not only from personal knowledge, but is founded on unpublished documents and the correspondence of nearly every one deeply concerned in these transactions.

Dr. Cameron, M.P., is about to republish a paper he lately read before the Philosophical Society of Glasgow, in which he pointed out the strong analogies in, and close relations between, the minute organisms that have been shown to be the active causes of fermentation, putrefaction, and disease.

Dr. Coppinger, who was naturalist on board H.M.S. *Alert*, during her four years' surveying cruise on the coast of Patagonia, among the islands of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and the North Coast of Australia, has now in the press an account of the scientific results of the voyage. The work will be published in January next by Mrs. Swan Sonnenschien and Co., and will be illustrated by a large number of woodcuts, from photographs made on the spot, including several reproductions of curious aboriginal drawings of considerable anthropological interest.

Mr. Robert MacGregor, Mr. David Farquharson, and Mr. J. H. Lorimer have been elected Associates of the Royal Scottish Academy.

M. Luis Jimenez has just completed his large picture, "The Rehearsal," for Messrs. Arthur Tooth and Son's Gallery, Haymarket.

Mr. B. S. Marks has just completed a portrait of Sir J. B. Monckton in Masonic costume of Grand Lodge. It is to be presented by the Buckingham and Chandos Lodge, of which Sir John Monckton was the founder.

According to the *Academy*, Professor Sayce and Mr. Francis Percival will leave England in the last week in November for a tour in Algeria and Tunis. They intend to visit Constantine, and, if possible, Kairwan; and they will also go to Malta and Gozo in order to examine the Phœnician antiquities in these two islands.

Mr. Millais's important figure-picture of "Pomona" has been bought by Mr. Neck, of the Avenue Road, for £2,500. Mr. Tooth, of the Haymarket, is exhibiting the work.

It is proposed to acquire a lease of some buildings near St. Mary-the-Less at Cambridge for the new Museum of Archæology and to adapt them to the purpose. The idea of erecting a new building has been abandoned, as no freehold site could be obtained adjacent to the Fitzwilliam Museum.

The amount realized for pictures sold from the Liverpool Autumn Exhibition exceeds £6,000.

The interesting series of 12 painted windows in "Christ Church, Bexley Heath," which were commenced in 1880 by Mr. Taylor, of Berner-street, representing studies from "Leonardo da Vinci's" celebrated picture of "The Last Supper," have now been completed, and fill both aisles of the church. They are all the gift of one donor, Mr. Edenzor, of Upton Lodge.

THE LABOUR MARKET.

A very quiet trade is still prevalent in all branches of industry, and little business of importance was done this week. The Manchester cloth market has been quiet. In some directions the tone is rather stronger. Prices are now so low that sellers do not care to press for orders, and there is not sufficient strength in the market to warrant anything like a general advance. All that can be said is that buyers and sellers alike are beginning to regard the situation with more care and thoughtfulness than they have lately done. In the lace and hosiery trades there has been little business transacted, and buyers only place orders at a decline. The concessions offered are not of sufficient importance to effect sales to any great extent. The hosiery trade is showing some signs of improvement, principally in the export departments, and the returns for last month are considerably in excess of those for the last two years. The Bradford wool market is quiet, but there is a hopeful tone among the holders of wool. In the yarn market a moderate amount of business is being done for export, and there is a steady home trade. There is a quieter tone in the Leicester wool market, and consumers are only buying to supply the wants of the moment. The flannel market at Rochdale is flat. The general tone of the Belfast linen trade is cheerful. The iron trade is quiet, but the tone is steady, and prospects are considered good.

Galignani's Messenger.

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LONDON, NOVEMBER 14—15, 1882.

MR. GLADSTONE'S STATEMENT.

To the surprise and, it must be added, on this occasion to the disappointment, of the House of Commons, Mr. Gladstone substantially kept his promise on Tuesday evening of confining his statement concerning the affairs of Egypt to "three minutes." For once the House would have been glad to hear him at greater length. It was not to be, however, and the Prime Minister confined himself to announcing a resolution by which nobody could be convinced. It was well known that a force of twelve thousand men is to be temporarily maintained in Egypt, and a Convention, it now appears, is to be entered into with the Khedive for that purpose, but even those persons who have the most profound confidence in the Premier could hardly have expected him to imitate Lord Beaconsfield's weakness for precedents to the extent of finding in the money arrangements made after the Battle of Waterloo a justification for financial methods to-day. It was supposed that, if he was anything fixed and definite, Mr. Gladstone was a financial reformer, and, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, made his own precedents. But now we find him going back to "the worst days of Tory Government" for patterns and pleas of financial policy. For the rest, the Prime Minister thinks that next year will be quite soon enough for him to deal with the expenses we have incurred by our suppression of the rebellion in Egypt, though he hopes shortly to make a fresh statement on the subject. It is only fair that this should be done, for although the country is content to leave the settlement of Egypt in the hands of Ministers, so long as it feels convinced that, in the main, they are following the right course, the question of Ways and Means is one in regard to which the House of Commons is entitled to information. Everyone is able to appreciate the delicacy of the task which the Government have to perform in their dealings with the European Powers on this subject, and it would be unpatriotic for any Party in Parliament to add to their embarrassments. At the same time, the question of international policy is wholly distinct from the question of finance, and Ministers would do wisely to take this fact into consideration.—*Standard.*

The *Times* says:—Mr. Gladstone vindicated at considerable length the propriety and expediency of the proposed convention, grounding his argument—perhaps to an unnecessary extent—upon the precedent of the convention of November, 1815, which provided for the occupation of France, after the final overthrow of Napoleon and the second restoration of the Bourbons, by the forces of the Allied Powers. Parliament, Mr. Gladstone further explained, will be duly seized of the matter in the ensuing session—according to the precedent of the French occupation—by placing a vote on the Estimates, which will be challenged and discussed, even though the financial arrangements with Egypt may dispense with a demand upon British taxpayers for this object. Sir Stafford Northcote was not entirely satisfied with the Prime Minister's statement, and contested the application of the precedents quoted. It would, however, be manifestly unwise, as well as, in our judgment, unpatrictic, for the Opposition to persist in a narrow and grudging criticism of English policy in Egypt. Whatever the most uncompromising opponent of the Prime Minister may think of the original acts or the underlying motives of the Government, it cannot be denied that the force of events is shaping British policy in a manner and guiding it in a direction with which those who desire to see England predominant in Egypt, be their party name Liberal or Conservative, have no cause to quarrel. The occupation of Egypt is the right thing because it is the indispensable and the inevitable thing. It is wise to wait and see what results that measure will itself produce. For our own part, we have no desire for a rank and rapid growth of new institutions with startling or provocative names. We know that the pressure of facts must and will affirm and enlarge the power and the responsibility England has accepted in Egypt, for the safeguarding of her own interests and the preservation of order and civilization on the shores of the Nile and the Suez Canal. The confidence which the country has accorded the Government reposes upon this silent conviction, and the Conservative party would be rash, as well as untrue to their own professions, were they to fling themselves intemperately into collision with so solid a mass of public opinion. The Egyptian question, like many others, will disentangle itself, if we have patience, and can endure to be silent, while the "provisional state of things," of which Mr. Gladstone spoke, is ripening into some more definite form.

The *Daily News* says:—Mr. Gladstone's statement with regard to our occupation of Egypt was exactly what we anticipated. It concerned itself almost altogether, as we expected that it would do, with the financial question raised by the employment of English troops in the country of the Khedive. The Government, as Mr. Gladstone stated, have no idea of maintaining our troops in occupation of Egypt for any great length of time. On the contrary, they hope that the occupation may be for a very short time. But it would not be possible to withdraw the troops altogether until some re-organisation of Egypt shall have begun and been consolidated so far as to give earnest of peace and order. The Government are of opinion that as the object of the occupation of Egypt by our soldiers is the maintenance of tranquillity in Egypt, and the occupation is rendered necessary by the absence of any regular Egyptian force, it is only reasonable that the question of charge ought to be raised between the two Governments. Her Majesty's Ministers, therefore, have decided that the next step to take is the formation of a Convention which will have to consider the charge for the twelve thousand men whom we still keep in Egypt, and other arrangements of a temporary kind for securing order in that country. The Convention is to be a Military Convention merely, and will not concern itself with the future security of the Suez Canal. The Government do not yet know whether other Conventions may be necessary, and with other Powers. As we understand the statement of the Prime Minister, the Government do not absolutely cut themselves off from all consideration of a claim to be made on Egypt with regard to the expense of the actual operations of war. But it is not their present intention to make any claim of the kind. They draw a clear distinction between the cost of the actual war and the cost of maintaining order in Egypt now that the war is over. We had about thirty-three thousand men in Egypt when our force there reached their maximum number. The first departure of our men took place on the 4th of October, and the homeward movement was kept up until the 8th of November.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

BALMORAL CASTLE, TUESDAY.

The Queen walked with Princess Beatrice in the morning yesterday, and her Majesty drove in the afternoon with the Princess, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe. The Queen and Princess Beatrice honoured Mrs. Campbell with a visit at Crathie Manse on Sunday afternoon.

The Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice and attended by a numerous suite, left Balmoral on Tuesday afternoon *en route* for Windsor, driving to Ballater in a carriage drawn by four greys, and preceded by an outrider. At the Ballater Station a guard of honour of the Seaforth Highlanders was drawn up in front of the station and saluted her Majesty. A number of the Great North of Scotland Railway directors accompanied the royal train (a special), which left the station at 2.5 p.m. Perryhill was reached at 3.32, and here a considerable number of people awaited, in spite of the cold weather, the arrival of the royal train. The Earl of Aberdeen, lord lieutenant of the county, was present in his official capacity, together with the Lord Provost and others. The Queen and Princess appeared in excellent health, and both stood at the window while the train remained at the junction. A handsome bouquet, and a basket of grapes from Haddo House were presented to her Majesty, who entered into conversation with Lord Aberdeen. The Royal party passed through Perth on Tuesday evening, making one hour's stay for dinner. The journey was resumed at 7.10 p.m. Among those present on the platform at Perth to greet her Majesty were the Duke and Duchess of Athole and the city magistrates. The Queen was heartily cheered at all the stations on the route.

The Crown Princess of Germany arrived at Buckingham Palace on Monday afternoon from Cumberland Lodge, attended by Countess Bruhl, Count Seckendorff, and Colonel the Hon. H. Byng, Equerry to the Queen, in attendance on her Imperial Highness.

The Countess of Stamford and Warrington has been very seriously ill at Bradgate Park for the past week. Dr. Quain has visited her ladyship. Dr. Marriott, of Leicester, is in constant attendance. The latest report states that her ladyship is in a very prostrate condition.

Mary Alice Lady Rushout, whose death is announced as having occurred on the 13th inst. at Marlow-place, was the only child of Mr. David Pennant, and married in July, 1865, the late Sir Charles FitzGerald Rushout, of Sezincote, and by whom, who died in 1879, she leaves Sir Charles Hamilton, the present baronet, and two daughters. Lady Rushout was only in her 40th year.

The death is announced of the Right Hon. Sir Andrew Buchanan, Bart., G.C.B., which occurred at Craigend Castle, his place in Stirlingshire, on Sunday night. The late Sir Andrew was one of the oldest and most respected of her Majesty's diplomatic servants, and had been actively employed over a period of just 50 years. He was the only son of Mr. James Buchanan, of Blair Vadock, Ardinconnel (afterwards seated at Craigend Castle, Stirlingshire), by Lady Janet, eldest daughter of the 12th Earl of Caithness, and was born in 1807. He married first, in 1839, Frances Katharine, only daughter of the Very Rev. Edward Mellish, dean of Hereford, which lady died in 1854, and he married secondly, 27th May, 1857, the Hon. Georgiana Elizabeth Stuart, daughter of the 11th Lord Blantyre. Captain James Buchanan, R.N., his only son and successor in the baronetcy, was born in 1840, and married in 1873, Arabella Catharine, youngest daughter of Mr. Goodwin Craven, of Brockhampton Park, Gloucestershire.

POLITICAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

It is understood that at the beginning of next month the Earl of Northbrook will assume the duties of Secretary of State for War, in succession to Mr. Childers, who is to be appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer.

A report was current in the Lobby on Tuesday evening that before the next Session of Parliament Lord Selborne will retire from the Woolsack, that Sir W. Harcourt will become Lord Chancellor, and that Sir H. James will succeed Sir W. Harcourt at the Home Office. The name of Mr. Charles Russell was mentioned in connection with the vacancy which would be caused by the promotion of Sir H. James.

It is stated that Sir Stafford Northcote does not intend to proceed with his Motion of censure on the Government respecting Egypt, and that Mr. Bourke will not persevere with his Motion relative to the trial of Arabi Pacha. The Opposition, however, purpose pressing the Government to give Parliament, as early as possible, information as to the exact cost of the recent campaign.

We understand that the terms of a Motion in reference to the Kilmainham Treaty have been substantially arranged between Mr. Yorke and the Government, and that the hon. member for Gloucestershire will propose that a Committee should be appointed to inquire into the circumstances attending the release of the Irish members imprisoned under the Coercion Act. It was reported on Tuesday night that a number of persons who could throw most light on the transaction had declined to give evidence.

At a meeting of members of Parliament and others, held on Tuesday, a Committee was formed, under the presidency of Mr. A. M'Arthur, M.P., for the purpose of aiding the Government of Madagascar in resisting the pretensions put forward by France.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

In the course of the communications going on with France on the subject of Egypt, her Majesty's Government have, we believe, courteously inquired whether there is any reasonable suggestion which France can offer in the direction of supplying satisfaction for the abolition of the Dual Control. A proposition that the Presidency of the Public Debt Commission shall be filled by a Frenchman was mentioned, but no conclusion has been arrived at.

The Paris Correspondent of the Berlin *Post* telegraphs the report that Lord Granville has formally assured the French Ambassador in London that the French Controllers will continue *de facto* in a position to examine the Egyptian finances as accurately as ever. We have reason to believe that there is not the slightest foundation for this report.

There was a rumour current in the Lobby of the House of Commons on Tuesday night pointing to the immediate resignation of Lord Selborne, and providing his successor. There is nothing in the circumstances of the hour which make this report any more true than it was when first started about twelve months ago, or than it has been when since revived at brief intervals.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE REVIEW.

Mr. CHILDERS, in answer to a question from Captain Aylmer, said he regretted that after a full consideration of all the circumstances he had not been able to advise Her Majesty to hold the review in Hyde-park, but he had made arrangements for the troops, after the review, to march by the Birdcage-walk, Grosvenor-place, and Piccadilly to Charing-cross.

THE OCCUPATION OF EGYPT.

Mr. GLADSTONE, pursuant to the notice given last week, made a short statement in reference to Egypt. In the first place, he reminded the House that the occupation of Cairo commenced on September 14, and that the withdrawal of the troops commenced on October 4, and by November 4 the army of 30,000 was reduced to 12,000. A state of things had now arisen, therefore, which it was hoped would be only provisional. Mr. C. E. Lewis here interposed, and pointed out that there was no question before the House, and that it would be impossible for the House to discuss the statement now being made, but the Speaker took no notice of the interruption, and Mr. Gladstone proceeded to say that the next step would be to conclude a Convention referring to the occupation. One very important, in fact the principal, element of this would be the charge of the military occupation, as to which, he said, no proposal had yet been made to the Egyptian Government. As a precedent, he mentioned the Convention concluded in November, 1815, after Waterloo, for the partial occupation of France by the Allied Troops, and he pointed out further that, in order to secure the necessary control of Parliament, the number of men engaged in the occupation was voted by Parliament, and there was a note in the Estimates that their cost was to be borne by France. In the course of a few weeks, and before Parliament met again, he hoped to have received information which would enable the Government to place a sum in the Estimates on which Parliament could express an opinion.

Sir S. NORTHCOTE thought the House had a right to further information as to the employment of her Majesty's forces in a foreign country, and the manner in which the expenses were to be met. The precedent cited by the Premier, if closely examined, had no analogy with the present state of affairs, and he insisted again that the House should have fuller information on the subject. Of course, the Government under the circumstances could stop discussion, but with regard both to this point and to Mr. Bourke's motion in regard to the surrender of Arabi, it was most unsatisfactory to Parliament and the people to be refused information and the opportunities of discussion. Remembering the strict financial doctrines preached by Mr. Gladstone when in opposition, he was surprised to find him so lax in regard to the expenditure now going on, which was of a totally different character from that which was involved in the Vote of Credit. He regretted the reticence of the Government, and protested against it.

In answer to Mr. Bourke, Mr. GLADSTONE said the Convention would be laid on the table, but he could not say that it would be this Session, nor could he say that the Convention would embrace other points than the cost of the occupying army, nor whether there would be conventions with other Powers.

In answer to Mr. PAGET, he said the Government had never formed the intention of asking Egypt for the expenses of the war. Mr. Salt held that all the expenditure now going on beyond the Vote of Credit was a violation of the Appropriation Act, and gave notice that he would put a question on the subject on Thursday.

Mr. R. YORKE gave notice of a Select Committee to inquire into the circumstances under which the so-called Treaty of Kilmainham was concluded, and Mr. Gladstone said the assent which he had promised the previous evening would not extend to any motion assuming the existence of a treaty, which had been always denied. Mr. Dodds, amid much laughter, gave notice that he would oppose the motion, and subsequently Lord Randolph Churchill asked whether if the motion were differently worded Mr. Gladstone would renew the consent which he gave last night, but which he seemed now inclined to back out of. Mr. Gladstone warmly declared that he would give no answer until this last phrase was withdrawn, and Lord R. Churchill protested that he meant nothing offensive by using so common an expression. In answer to this and a question from Mr. J. Lowther whether a day would be given for a motion worded in an unobjectionable manner, Mr. Gladstone declined to give an answer until he saw the resolution. Mr. Yorke said he would be happy to enter into communication with the Ministerial Whip.

The House then took up the Second of the Procedure Resolutions, which regulates the privilege of moving adjournment.

In the first place, an amendment by Lord R. Churchill, allowing adjournments to be moved when Ministerial or other statements have been made, was discussed at some length, and supported mainly on the general ground that the House should reserve to itself the privilege of raising discussions and cliciting statements on matters of urgency. The Government were also urged frequently to shorten debate and save time by disclosing their intentions as to Mr. H. Fowler's amendment, but they again declined to anticipate the regular course of events. In the end Lord R. Churchill's amendment was negatived by 123 to 85, and Mr. Fowler then brought forward his amendment, the effect of which is to allow a motion to be made when 40 members rise in their places to support the request.

Mr. GLADSTONE, in speaking to it after some general remarks in vindication of the reserve which the Government had so long maintained, expressed a strong opinion that the wisest and safest plan was to leave the matter in the hands of the majority, protesting at the same time with much indignation against the doubts thrown on the equity and independence of the majority. Still, he was ready to yield to the strong feeling expressed in the debate, and to try the experiment of allowing the privilege to a certain number of members. He proposed therefore to substitute for Mr. Fowler's amendment a proposal that the privilege should be allowed to any member rising in his place and stating that he desired with the leave of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent importance, on condition that 40 members rose in their places to support the request.

This amendment was discussed at great length through the entire evening. Mr. W. H. Smith and Sir R. Cross, though not entirely approving of the words, accepted it in preference to an entire abolition of the privilege. Mr. Arnold expressed his entire disapproval of the concession, Mr. T. P. O'Connor complained that no provision was made for small minorities, and Lord R. Churchill made a vivacious attack on the Government, which Mr. Labouchere replied to in a long and discursive speech. Incidentally, also Mr. Forster's mode of answering questions was severely criticized, and after he had defended himself, the Irish members also vindicated their use of the privilege of moving the adjournment. Several verbal amendments were made in the amendment, and a motion by Lord R. Churchill to omit the words referring to a declaration of urgency, was negatived by 146 to 86. An amendment by Mr. Shiel to reduce the number to 15 was negatived by 109 to 43, and ultimately Mr. Gladstone's amendment was agreed to, and the debate was then adjourned.

MR. GRAY'S CASE.

The Attorney-General brought up the report of the Committee on Mr. Gray's case, but Mr. Sexton objected to the reception of it, on the ground of certain irregularities in its procedure, and the debate was adjourned.

LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM "THE WORLD.")

The Sandringham ball was a good deal cut up by the "whip" of Friday. M.P.'s were obliged to be in their places at St. Stephen's, instead of escorting their wives and daughters to the pleasant halls of Sandringham. Amongst the enforced absentees from Friday evening's entertainment was Mr. Christopher Sykes, who is expected by his constituency to be in his place to vote on important occasions.

An eye-witness, who was present at the Ranelagh Club to test the advantages of the Ligowsky flying clay pigeons, and who witnessed some shooting at them, says they are, no doubt, a marvellous invention, and likely to try the very best shots very highly. The pigeon is made of thin baked clay in shape like a deep saucer. It is fixed into a kind of catapult or trap, which can be regulated to send the pigeon in any direction; so that out of five traps no two are adjusted to send the bird in the same line. The traps are pulled in the same way pigeon-traps were pulled in old days, and great skill is required to hit the *mark pigeon* or *clay dish* (call it as you like). If hit, the pigeon breaks to pieces, so there can be no doubt as to a hit or a miss. This invention will go a long way to supersede the live bird, as it is 100 per cent. cheaper in all ways, and can be available at any moment for the amusement of a country-house party or club, and affords just as good sport as the live bird.

Plas Newydd, Lord Anglesey's place on the Menai, is, I am sorry to hear, to be turned into an asylum for "dipsomaniacs." It has stood empty ever since the death of Lady Willoughby de Broke, its last tenant. Plas Newydd is not an old house, having been built in the early years of the present century by the Earl of Uxbridge. It is splendidly situated, being embowered in thick woods, which extend for some distance along the shores of the Menai, down to the very edge of which the lawn slopes.

The inhospitable treatment that the gallant 84th received at Aldershot last week is in painful contrast with the dinners and fêtes that await the Household troops on their arrival from Egypt. The 84th and 87th Regiments, which are destined to winter on the bleak Aldershot hills, were two of the best fighting corps in Egypt, and certainly deserve better quarters on their return.

One of the features of the new opera at the Savoy Theatre will be the application of the electric light upon the stage. The chorus ladies, representing fairies, will wear incandescent lamps in their hair, and I am told the effect is charming and novel. Another theatre endeavoured a short time back to put on an "electric-light ballet," and the plans were so far completed as to warrant the erection of the machinery; but it was found that the incandescent lamps were not powerful enough, and the insurance company objected to naked lights being used. The Savoy management, with their experience of electric lighting, have, however, been able to overcome the difficulties attending Swan's system, and, by covering the conducting-wires with silk of the same colour as the ladies' dresses, the arrangements are rendered invisible to the spectator, and a sufficiently strong current can be obtained direct from the generators to make the nature of the decoration palpable even in the limelight. It was, I believe, at first suggested that each lady should carry a small "accumulator," weighing about four pounds, upon her back. The electric light will also be adopted for some scenic effects in the forthcoming Drury Lane pantomime.

I have the following story on the very best authority. On the morning of the intended attack at Tel-el-Kebir—it being above all things necessary that the surprise should be effected before dawn—Sir Garnet Wolseley, while waiting the completion of preparations, held in his hand a repeating chronometer, given him by the late Lord Airey, which from time to time he kept striking. It had warned him of half-past four, and he thought he had yet an hour's dark, when he saw a ray of light rise above the horizon. Turning to Major Butler, he said, in almost despairing tones, "We are done this time—there's the dawn!," But the light did not increase; on the contrary, in a few minutes it vanished. And Sir Garnet afterwards found that what he had seen was the tail of the new comet—its first appearance in Egypt!

With Eastern complications in the chronic stage, the vital importance of Malta, as an English port and naval arsenal, has forced itself upon the attention of the Government. The dockyard there is inadequate to our growing requirements, and its resources are to be developed as far as may be considered practicable. The staff is being strengthened, and I can authoritatively announce that the Director of Naval and Engineering Works will shortly proceed to Malta in connection with extensive proposals for increasing its capabilities, including the construction of new docks.

A most gallant exploit is recorded of Lieutenant Lang, of the Seaforth Highlanders, during the Egyptian campaign. He swam across the canal at Shaluf, and, under a heavy fire, cut the rope of the ferry-boat, and brought it over, by which means he was enabled to get his men across, and put to rout two regiments of Egyptians who were entrenched in the village. With his own hand he killed the colonel; and, though the number of the enemy was, over the Highlanders, as ten to one, he succeeding in making them evacuate the place. He was recommended by his own officers for the V.C., and also very strongly by the naval authorities; but was refused by the Commander-in-Chief, because he considered that so few of our men had been killed. Was the risk not sufficient to authorise his recommending this gallant young soldier? or was it because he belonged to that gallant band who made the finest march on record under another gallant General? I hope this is not true; but stories will crop up as the army comes home, and we hear *viva voce* from our friends what did and what did not happen.

With the exception of lawn-tennis, no game has spread so much in England of late years as that of golf. What St. Andrews Golf Club is to a Scotchman, so is the Wimbledon Golf Club now to Englishmen; possibly in time to come, when the game has been fully worked up, the latter club may even cut out its more ancient rival and prototype. Although still some way off that, the club has recently made great strides. In the first place, by divorcing itself from the golf club known as the London Scottish, it has become more cosmopolitan, as any honest-hearted golfer may now become a member if otherwise eligible, whereas formerly it was necessary to pass through the ranks of Lord Elcho's corps to obtain entrance se- Besides which, now the club has at last cured what it has so long wanted, an excellent club-house. This is situated at the south-east corner of the common, and is known as Camp Cottage, from its vicinity to the camp of Cæsar. The situation of the club-house is most convenient, and the windows open out on a charming lawn with sheltering trees. Mr. Guy Pim is the moving spirit in all the new arrangements. The annual dinner of the club takes place next Thursday at St. James's Hall.

The Parnellite papers have determined as far as in them lies to Boycott all London fashions, and gravely propose that the fair daughters of Erin shall follow those set by the Lady Mayoress *pro tem.!* Conceive me, if you can, the bare possibility of any of the wild Irish girls, whose beauty glitters and flashes like diamonds at a Castle ball, worshipping municipal dowdiness as a patriotic duty! I hear Lord Mayor Dawson expresses his gratitude that the wife of his bosom will not long be tempted to profuse expenditure on the plea of encouragement of Irish industries.

A PURE BREAKFAST TABLE.

One of Mr. John Bright's ideals is "a free breakfast-table." Some years ago, in one of his addresses, he urged the abolition of the duties on the essential requisites of an English breakfast as the complement of the repeal of the Corn Laws, and a reform necessary to the comfort of the working-man. The big loaf was to be followed by the cheap tea-pot. Mr. Bright's reform has not come about yet, but in the meantime there is another in progress which was a good deal more urgent. If it is important that we should breakfast economically, it is still more important that we should breakfast wholesomely. We are hardly able to do this at present, though we are better off than formerly. What shall we say, for example, of London bread? Putting out of mind the horrors of the bakehouse, is the composition of our ordinary loaf what it should be, or what it professes to be? Not always, though in respect of bread a very great improvement has been effected of late years. Not long ago a London-made loaf was looked upon with justifiable suspicion, but it is satisfactory to be assured that the chances are now twenty to one that a loaf bought at hazard will be unadulterated. The adulteration, when it does exist, is very deleterious, however. It usually consists of alum, added to improve the appearance of the bread, but ruinous to the consumer's digestion. It seems from the last report of the Local Government Board that of the samples of bread analysed by public sanitary officers last year only 5 per cent. were adulterated. This was a great advance on the preceding year, and shows what may be done by well-directed sanitary legislation efficiently carried out. But if we are practically sure of a wholesome loaf of bread, a great deal still remains to be done on behalf of butter. Of course a good deal of the substance which passes for butter is not butter at all, but what the trade calls butterine, which is quite another material from "bosh." It is now recognised as wholesome, and may be legally sold, on the single condition of its being sold for what it is and not for what it is not. This condition is perhaps not very scrupulously observed by the butterman, but the worst consequence of the omission to the consumer is that he pays a higher price than he ought to be charged. The purchaser of what purports to be the genuine article is bound to take more care than he who has the courage to buy butterine under its own name, for, of the samples of butter officially analysed in 1881, 14 per cent. were adulterated. This is an improvement, however, upon the previous year, when the percentage of adulterations was 18. The most effectual means of cheating the butter buyer seems to be the introduction into the article of the largest possible quantity of water. This has been known to reach 19 per cent., which, as a public analyst remarks, raises the price of water to the consumer to 3s. 4d. a quart, the butter being sold at 1s. 4d. a pound.

London milk has borne hitherto as bad a character as London bread, and we regret to say the bad character has not been retrieved, though there is a considerable amendment. In some districts of London the proportion of samples of milk reported on as adulterated is enormous. For instance, in the City, nearly half; in St. Pancras, 34 out of 87; and in Woolwich, 31 out of 46. In St. James's, Westminster, of 60 samples analysed, not one was found adulterated, and in Wandsworth only 11 out of 119. We are inclined to share in the doubt expressed in the Local Government Board's report whether these figures accurately represent facts, and whether such unaccountable discrepancies do not rather indicate differences in the mode of carrying out the Act. For, as the report observes, the area over which a particular purveyor's milk is distributed does not, as a rule, coincide with that of the sanitary districts. It is, therefore, difficult to see why, for all the returns can show us, the district of St. James's has always a pure supply, while adulteration is reported in numerous instances in the neighbouring districts. There seems no doubt, however, that the quality of London milk in general is much better than it was, and we are a great deal better off than some of the large provincial towns. Birmingham, though close to the finest pastures in England, has for some years maintained a bad pre-eminence in the matter of its milk supply, and last year, out of 59 samples analysed, 32 were found to be adulterated. Why more than half the milk sold in Birmingham should be adulterated, while in Sheffield the proportion falls to one-ninth, it is difficult to understand. Possibly, as in the case of the discrepancies between different districts in London, the explanation may be found partly in a more or less efficient administration of the law. Happily, it is water only that is added to milk, but this is sometimes used in enormous quantities—60 or 70 per cent. occasionally, and about 20 per cent. as the average. Not that the limitation is a guarantee against mischievous results, for the water is not always pure, and there can be no doubt that typhoid and other diseases are largely propagated through its being mixed with milk. The ease with which milk may be adulterated, and the profit which attends the practice, present a great difficulty in the way of its suppression by law. The milkman who adds 20 per cent. to his legitimate profits by resorting to the pump is not likely, as the report before us suggests, to be deterred by an occasional fine of ten shillings or a pound. His being fined has, of course, a tendency to injure him in his business, but it is possible, and even probable, especially in London, that a great many of his customers never hear of it.

Our tea is supposed to be protected by examination at the Custom House. To what extent, if at all, it is adulterated by retail dealers there is no means of ascertaining. But 1,153 packages were seized last year at the Custom House as unfit for consumption. Of these 500 were "faced" green teas, 500 were composed chiefly of leaves other than tea leaves, made up to imitate the green tea known as Imperial; while the rest consisted of decaying congou and fannings. It is remarked by the official analyst that all the tea destroyed, as well as the packages turned back as not absolutely unfit for use, though not good enough for English consumption, were China teas—a fact which can hardly fail to stimulate the already fast growing taste for the Indian teas which tea-drinkers who have once learned to like them never forsake for their Chinese rivals. Coffee is still persistently adulterated, though not with deleterious matter. Chicory is used sometimes to the amount of 60 or 70 per cent., and the grocers obstinately refuse for the most part to conform to the law which requires this mixture to be indicated by a label on the package in which it is sold. It is not easy in many cases for the sanitary inspectors to obtain proof of this particular kind of adulteration. The Southampton analyst reports that on his visiting a certain shop where he happened to be known, and asking to be served with coffee, one assistant was set to pound two ounces of berries in a mortar for him, while another was sent out to warn neighbours that the inspector was on his rounds. On the evening of the same day the inspector sent a messager who was unknown to this shop, with the result that he got the usual compound off coffee and chicory. The adulteration of sugar, says the report, is a thing of the past. We have certainly made great advances towards a pure breakfast table since the revelation of the *Lancet's* sanitary commission startled and alarmed us 30 years ago. For Londoners, too, it is a great comfort to have official assurance that, taking one article of food with another, we are much better off in the matter of adulteration than the rest of the kingdom. If we run exceptional risks of being choked with fog or stunned with noise, we have, on the other hand, an exceptional immunity from being starved or poisoned by the sophistication of our meat and drink.—*Globe.*

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

THE MURDER OF PROFESSOR PALMER'S PARTY.

The session for 1882-3 of the Royal Geographical Society was opened last evening in the theatre of the University of London, Burlington-gardens. Lord Aberdare, the president, in his opening address dwelt on the principal events which had occurred since the termination of the session in June last. They had, he said, recently lost a distinguished member of the society by a death so tragic that it was impossible to pass over the calamity in silence. He referred to Captain Gill, who at the time of his decease was still enjoying all the vigour of manhood. In him the country had lost, not only a most valuable and promising officer, but a man who united in himself all the qualities of an explorer and geographer. That two such men as Captain Gill and Professor Palmer should have been lost at one time was a national misfortune. Subsequently Lord Northbrook related in some detail the circumstances under which Captain Gill undertook the dangerous service in which, with Professor Palmer and Flag-Lieutenant Charrington, he lost his life. His lordship said that it was a dangerous duty, but Captain Gill was well aware of the danger. Captain Gill, Professor Palmer, and Lieutenant Charrington admirably represented the spirit of the country to which they belonged. Professor Palmer had sacrificed all his great learning in the service of the nation; Captain Gill, a scientific soldier, with a large fortune of his own, had ever been ready to proceed on any enterprise that could be of use; and the gallant young sailor, Lieutenant Charrington, accompanied them in a spirit which was well worthy of the distinguished officer under whom he had served—namely, Sir William Hewitt. Colonel Yule trusted, from what Lord Northbrook had now said, and from what Mr. Gladstone had recently stated in the House of Commons, that no difficulty would be experienced in providing for those of the families of the three unhappy gentlemen who required such provision. It also behoved England to take care that some memorial was erected to such gallant men, either in St. Paul's or Westminster Abbey.

MR. COLQUHOUN'S JOURNEY.

Mr. A. R. Colquhoun, F.R.G.S., of the Indian Public Works Department, read a paper on an exploration which he had made with the late Mr. Charles Wahab through southern China from the mouth of the Sikiang to the banks of the Irawadi. The journey which he accomplished might, he said, be divided into two parts—the Canton river and Yunnan. The Canton river he found might be made, with slight improvements in the channel, navigable for some four hundred miles above Canton for light-draught steamers of about four feet, though none were allowed to ply. The river was one of most unusual beauty, and a visit would well repay the artist or geologist. The main features of the journey through the provinces of Kwang-Tung and Kwang-si were the insecurity of the river against robbers, the marked animosity of the people towards foreigners, and the numerous fine cities fast falling into decay. The amount of trade by the Canton river would in the future, he believed, be very small. Whatever there might be would not go entirely to Canton, but be divided between that place and Pak-hoi. After literally fighting their way up the river rapids, on the 18th March they ascended the mountainous plateau of Yunnan, which formed an extensive uneven highland plateau in which the main ranges had a trend north and south. There were lakes of considerable extent. Fertile plains and valleys were numerous. An important discovery made during his journey was the much greater fertility of the soil and the more affluent circumstances of the population in the south than in the north of Yunnan. For the purpose of getting at the ordinary trade of Yunnan, the main routes which might be considered to be available were by the Yang-tze river from Shanghai; by the Canton river, from Canton; by the Sangoa river, from the Tonquin Gulf; by the Bhamo route, from Bhamo on the Irawadi; and by some route from British Burmah. No single route could tap the whole trade of the province. The portions of Yunnan which we wished to get at were the south-west and west side of Yunnan, and he felt himself justified in asserting that the advantages between the different routes lay with a railroad from the side of Burmah. It was a fortunate chance that the richest part of the province happened to lay on the side of our territory, and that the approach lay through the Shan country, which he believed itself was well worth exploration and development. After a discussion, in which Colonel Yule, Sir Thomas Wade, and others took part, a vote of thanks to Mr. Colquhoun was passed with acclamation, on the motion of Lord Aberdare.

SEVERE GALE.

A gale of considerable violence prevailed off Great Yarmouth during Monday night and early on Tuesday morning. The Norwegian brig *Kattlund* (225 tons), of Tarsund, from Hernosand for Caen, with wood, drove ashore abreast of the monument, and she is expected to become a total wreck. The rocket apparatus was quickly on the spot, but difficulty was experienced in effecting a rescue, owing to the Norwegian sailors being unacquainted with the appliance. Two men were brought ashore, and, as the vessel began to break up, a coastguard, named Thomas Lloyd, gallantly volunteered to go off to the brig in order to direct operations on board. The Yarmouth and Gorleston companies then combined in their work, and succeeded in rescuing the six remaining men. Most of the Great Yarmouth fishing fleet were fortunately in harbour during the storm.

On Tuesday morning the brig *Widgeon*, of Warkworth, struck on the Pakefield Sand, off Lowestoft. The Pakefield lifeboat was launched, but, owing to the heavy sea, she could not get near the brig. Warford, the coxswain, was washed out of the boat, and was much bruised. He had, altogether, a narrow escape. The rocket apparatus, under Mr. Lymes, went speedily to work, and succeeded in rescuing the crew of six hands. The Norwegian brig *Burton*, on Tuesday morning, struck on the Holmsand, off Lowestoft. The Lowestoft lifeboat was quickly manned with her old crew, and took the brig's crew of eight hands safely out of her. Fifteen minutes afterwards the brig went to pieces. The Swedish vessel *M. Luther*, from Kalmar, arrived at West Hartlepool on Tuesday evening, bringing the captain and crew of the German brig *Marie Mathilde*, of Rostock, whom they rescued during a heavy gale in the North Sea on November 11. The Italian barque *Mariquita* was brought into Harwich on Monday night. She was bound from Shields to Trieste with coal, and was found abandoned in the North Sea, with 5ft. of water in her hold, by the smacks *Frederick Ward*, of Lowestoft, the *Eliza Eades*, of Lowestoft, and the *Mermaid*, of Yarmouth. The smacks arranged with the tug *Cruiser*, of Yarmouth, to tow the derelict to Harwich. On Tuesday the *Mary Elizabeth*, of Yarmouth, brought in the crew of the schooner *Reliance*, of Maldon, having found them in an open boat in the North Sea, about eleven a.m. on Monday. They had abandoned their vessel, which was bound from Shields to Rochester. A considerable number of vessels have run to Harwich for shelter. A large brig is reported to be riding in the Swin dismasted. A gale of great violence from the north-east has been raging over Sheerness. The high winds have driven in, overflowing the sea wall at several places, and partially submerging the skating rink, swimming bath, and adjacent land. Considerable damage has been caused amongst the shipping. The barge *Liberator*, belonging to Mr. W. H. Drake, brick manufacturer, Sittingbourne, foundered some distance off Sheerness. The crew were saved by a Government steam tug. The gale on Tuesday

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NOTICE.

A Four-page Supplement is published with this day's number of the MESSENGER, *and will be delivered gratis with each copy of the paper. It contains our American news and an interesting variety of literary extracts.*

Great Britain.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 15–16, 1882.

THE IRISH AGITATORS.

The Irish party maintain their attitude of apparent indifference to the enactment of a Parliamentary Code which their tactics justified, and which is likely to be used most stringently against them should they again attempt to obstruct public business. A debate is threatened on the report of the Select Committee on Mr. Gray's case, and another on the appointments of the Court valuers under the Land Act. In Ireland the organs of the Parnellites talk big of what will be done unless the Government yield to pressure upon these points; but in the House of Commons hitherto the policy which Mr. Parnell imposed upon his party in spite of the resistance of Mr. Davitt has been maintained. The state of Ireland strengthens the argument in favour of inaction. It is difficult for the Irreconcilables to bring pressure to bear upon the Government except by predicting that troubles will follow the refusal to yield to their extravagant demands. At present the just and strict enforcement of the Prevention of Crimes Act is making it more difficult for the party of agitation to create the evidence of discontent and danger on which they rely. Large masses of the Irish people may be disaffected, and even ready to defy the law and to strike terror among the loyal by deeds of cruelty. But they will not move unless they have a chance of escape, and the convictions lately obtained in Dublin are shaking their confidence. On Wednesday, in the Special Commission Court, one of the perpetrators of the massacre of the Joyce family at Maamtrasna was found guilty and sentenced to death. The evidence was clear and ample, and the absence of proved motive pointed to the probability that this monstrous crime was planned and executed to conceal another. The knowledge that judges and juries will do their duty in spite of denunciations such as those heaped upon Mr. Justice Lawson and the jurors at the former sittings of the Commission, and the belief that the Irish Executive will use all the powers at its disposal to detect and bring to punishment criminals however shielded by secret societies, must warn many of the guilty that it is time to make their peace with the law. Each of these trials is linked with others. The conviction of the Maamtrasna murderer Joyce will probably be followed by that of other persons implicated in the same crime, and the fear of remote consequences may be expected to put new clues into the hands of the police. It is not impossible that the assassins of Lord Ardilaun's bailiffs may soon be brought to justice, which would never have been the case if the Prevention of Crime Act had not made convictions on clear evidence attainable.—*Times.*

PRESIDENT GRÉVY.

M. Grévy has shrunk almost morbidly from magnifying his office. The fault is on the right side, but it is a fault nevertheless. An elected President cannot be quite in the position of an hereditary monarch, who is apt to feel that if he attempts to govern, his son will never reign. When the two Chambers cast an enormous majority for M. Grévy in 1879, they assuredly did not mean to imply by their votes that they considered him an excellent man to discharge formal and ceremonial functions. A President who was always interfering with his Ministers would, no doubt, be worse than no President at all. If there were in France a strong Government, supported by a large majority in the Chamber of Deputies and not seriously opposed in the Senate, a prudent President would probably let things go very much their own way. It is scarcely necessary to observe that this is not and has not for a long time been the case in France. France is said to be at the present moment governed by the Chamber; it is not so clear that the Chamber can govern itself. The recent confusion as to the items in the Budget of Public Worship is an instructive illustration of the chaos which prevails in that all-powerful body. No human being can say how long the contemptuous tolerance or the complicated divisions of the Left may permit M. Duclerc's Government to continue in office. Those who are always crying out against the demoralising effect of a political party following a trusted leader will not derive much support for their views, or much consolation for their affliction, in considering the humiliating position which M. de Freycinet lately occupied, and which M. Duclerc occupies now. M. Grévy, to all appearance, accepts philosophically enough a situation which he can scarcely approve, but for which he probably does not consider himself in any way responsible. It would be rash to predict the result of what looks almost like a paralysis of government. Perhaps the Chamber may become tired of setting up and pulling down Ministries in wantonness, caprice, or indifference. There is one thing which can be safely said of it, and that is, that it is for peace. In this respect no doubt the Deputies represent their constituents. The refusal to sanction M. de Freycinet's Egyptian credits was severely criticised in this country. In our opinion, which we expressed at the time, it was a wise and patriotic decision. France has had enough of war. Her artisans and her peasants are beginning to see that her old successful wars of conquest were little more conducive to the happiness and comfort of the bulk of the population than her recent unsuccessful war of ambition. The humbler class of Frenchman has asked itself why it should fight on behalf of politicians any more than on behalf of kings, and it can find no good answer to the question. M. Grévy is the last man in the world to instigate or favour a policy of aggression or reprisals.—*Daily News.*

THE REPRESENTATION OF CULTURE

The seat for Cambridge University is, after all, to be contested without delay. At a large and enthusiastic meeting of Liberal residents held on Tuesday afternoon, the name of Professor Stuart was put forward and unanimously accepted as that of the fittest candidate to represent the university in Parliament. Academical distinction and experience, with high personal distinction, will thus take the field against mere political partisanship. And it must be remembered that Professor Stuart is by no means an academical candidate merely. His energetic initiative in connection with the extension of university teaching has made him personally known in the most active and populous districts of the country, and wherever he is known his singular combination of tact and enthusiasm, and his remarkable powers of exposition and persuasion, have made him a name of weight and influence. Moreover, for this particular contest he has the advantage that he is likely to carry with him a considerable body of the Liberal clergy, both in the university and outside. Professor Stuart's Cambridge committee is a singularly strong and representative one; his candidature will be thoroughly popular with all the scattered university Liberals in the provinces; it only remains for the London portion of the constituency to work their hardest in order to remove the reproach which the unopposed or easy return of a mere commonplace official Tory would be to the university. The occasion suggests one or two reflections, the drift of which is not altered by the choice of an academic candidate once in a way. The general plea for university representation, and the general character of it, is not much affected by a happy accident now and then. The argument commonly used in favour of making the universities parliamentary constituencies is that they return men of a high and peculiar stamp, cultivated thinkers, whose scientific or literary accomplishments enable them to contribute to the great council of the nation an element which it might otherwise want. The Conservative caucus has chosen, and no doubt expected that it would carry unopposed, Mr. H. C. Raikes, now member for Preston. Mr. Raikes is as unacademical a person as could well be found. He did not take a first class at Cambridge; he has never done anything whatever in any field of literary or scientific or educational work. He is a mere party politician of good business-like qualities, like twenty others on his own side of the House, and no more specially qualified to represent a university than any other member of the Carlton Club. And whatever his merits or demerits may be, it must be remembered that he was in the House of Commons already, so that in returning him the University of Cambridge makes no new contribution to the wisdom of that body. Nor is his case a solitary one. Mr. Beresford-Hope and Mr. John Talbot were both already members of the House of Commons when they stood for Cambridge and Oxford Universities. Neither they nor Sir John Mowbray can be said to have any university flavour about them, or to bring anything into Parliament which universities are particularly fitted to supply. None of these three university representatives has ever lived in his university, nor has any knowledge of its requirements and wishes beyond what the local wire-pullers may transmit to him. None of them ever throws any light upon any subject which may be under discussion from any store of knowledge, scientific or historical, of which he may be the possessor. In fact, Parliament and the country gain nothing from the bestowal of a special franchise on the universities, while the universities lose a good deal, because a political spirit and party organization are kept up in them, which are not only ill-becoming to a seat of learning, but often positively mischievous, because they interfere with the choice of the best men for educational offices and duties. It is not surprising, therefore, that a strong feeling has been growing up in the universities that their Parliamentary franchise ought to be withdrawn on the first occasion when the question of Parliamentary reform comes up. The resident teachers of both Oxford and Cambridge, as everybody knows, are now mainly Liberals. If they formed the university constituencies, they would return Liberal members, and would no doubt select men of some academic quality and academic distinction. The selection of Mr. Stuart at Cambridge on Tuesday, like that of Professor Henry Smith at Oxford four or five years ago, illustrates this. But they are drowned in the ocean of non-resident M.A.'s, mostly clergymen, who obey the call of the party clique at headquarters; and they are therefore forced to see themselves permanently represented by persons against whom they have voted, and with whom they have personally no sympathy. If the privilege of sending up members was confined to graduates resident at Oxford and Cambridge, in which case it would have a meaning and a *raison d'être*, they would probably like to retain it, for there would be advantages in having a person entitled to speak with authority for them when questions affecting higher education came before Parliament. But when small boroughs have been condemned to extinction the resident graduates in each university will appear to be too small a body to form a constituency. Hence the choice will probably lie between keeping the present large but unreal and artificial constituencies and extinguishing the right altogether. Of these alternatives the latter will seem preferable. It will at least deliver the majority of the true teaching university from the humiliation of having members hostile to the principles they hold forced upon them by the country clergy. One may, therefore, expect to see a good deal of support from Oxford and Cambridge to the proposal which will no doubt be made when the Redistribution of Seats Bill is presented, for abolishing university seats. —*Pall Mall Gazette.*

THE DEPRIVATION OF THE REV. R. W. ENRAGHT.—The council of the Church of England Working Men's Society held a meeting at their office, 3, Tavistock-street, on Monday evening to consider the present position of the various ritual cases, specially that of the Rev. R. W. Enraght, vicar of Holy Trinity, Bordesley, who had received notice from the Bishop of Worcester that, by virtue of the provisions of the Public Worship Regulation Act, his living was void. Resolutions were unanimously adopted repudiating "the claims of the State, and courts created by it without the consent of the Church, to deprive a canonically-instituted priest of the cure of souls solemnly committed to him by the Church through its duly appointed ministers," expressing sympathy with Mr. Enraght and with the churchwardens, congregation, and parishioners of Holy Trinity, Bordesley, and promising to afford them all legitimate support in their resistance of the attack upon their spiritual rights.

THE STATE OF EGYPT.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Wednesday:—

The deficit of the current financial year is estimated at about £120,000, as against the expected surplus of £282,000. Of this amount, £108,000 is due to the drain of the Domain Commission, in addition to their taxes, amounting to £70,000, which remain, as usual, unpaid. The Daira Sanieh, in the same way, owe £80,000, though this may be recoverable. The absolute necessity, in the interests of Egypt, of a Control, is strikingly shown by recent incidents. The Commissions of the Daira and of the Domains both represent the interests of the bondholders. Each of them occasionally finds the interests represented by it in conflict with the Government. The Control then assumes its natural position—that of an impartial arbiter and protector of Egypt's interests against the pressure which might otherwise be exercised by the European representatives of the bondholders. The £108,000 was only granted to the Domains subject to the condition that £40,000 of their debt should be withdrawn.

The Caisse de la Dette Publique, which, it should be remembered, was instituted by the Khedive Ismail prior to the creation of the Control, is another body whose interests are those of the bondholders. The English Government recently proposed that provisions for the army of occupation should be allowed to enter duty free. The Caisse refused, on the ground that the duties are hypothecated to them, and claimed that the Egyptian Government should make good the difference. Owing to the resistance of the Control, matters will doubtless be equitably settled. The deficit, and the cost of the occupation and of the indemnities constitute a heavy charge on the future revenues of the country; and it is obviously desirable to find means to levy this with the minimum of burden to the people and of sacrifice to the bondholders, who have already sacrificed much. The first necessity is to provide for meeting the deficit. The increase of indemnities would be alike injurious to people and creditors; but the suspension of that portion of the law of liquidation which provides for the surplus funds being employed to buy in Egyptian stock would hurt no one. The effect of the reformed administration, and mainly of the Control, has been so beneficial that much larger sums have already been bought in than was anticipated as probable when the law was passed. Its suspension, therefore, simply makes the position what had been originally anticipated by the framers of that law. As regards the fellah, the arrangement leaves the debt unreduced; but any other arrangement would increase it. As regards the bondholder, he waits longer for his principal, but he receives his interest without diminution of his securities.

This suspension will probably have to continue so long as an army of occupation remains in Egypt. With reference to the cost of occupation, it is assumed that England will only require Egypt to defray the extra expense incurred by keeping the army in Egypt, instead of in England. With this understanding and a properly controlled administration, it is hoped that all claims may be settled, and Egypt return into her normal state of financial prosperity by the end of 1884.—Suleiman Sami, who has arrived here, declares with the utmost energy that everything he did was done in concert with Arabi Pacha, and by his express orders. He asserts that upon several occasions, and in presence of several witnesses, notably on one occasion in the Square, he received special instructions to massacre, pillage, and burn. He asks to be confronted with Arabi Pacha in public, and says he dares him to deny it to his face.—It would be unjust to give credence to such statements, if unsupported by any other evidence. On the other hand, it is absurd to suppose that documentary evidence could exist for such orders. The assertion of Suleiman and the denial of Arabi are by themselves equally valueless. The two men are of equally respectable antecedents, Suleiman being the son of a Governor of Esneh, Arabi of a Charkieh fellah. Neither had anything against his name prior to recent political events, and both have an equally wide reputation as liars. That Suleiman was actually the instrument is admitted by both; whether or not Arabi gave the order remains to be proved. But there is force in Suleiman's remark, "Was any act possible in Egypt against Arabi's wish?"

The Cairo correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Wednesday evening:—

Although the health of the troops has distinctly improved, and there is a considerable decrease in the number of deaths as well as of admissions into hospital, it is still far from being satisfactory. The Egyptian Government have been requested to lend their assistance, especially in the matter of checking the sale of poisonous spirits, but as these are for the most part sold by low Greeks and Italians, the Government are powerless, as these men cannot be interfered with owing to the Capitulations. It is considered probable that the Capitulations will, like the Control, be swept away, as unquestionably they have worked ill, and have been the means of Egypt being flooded with the sweepings of Southern Europe. Count della Sala's scheme for forming a Cosmopolitan Police is in danger of falling to pieces altogether, as the recruits defy all attempts to enforce discipline by threatening to appeal to their respective Consuls if any step is taken to punish them. Out of a little over four hundred men who have been enlisted, twenty-seven have already been dismissed. The scheme was crudely formed, and was the first result of the violent reaction against everything Egyptian among the Khedive's foreign *entourage* at Ras-el-Tin Palace. In its present form it appears doomed to failure. There is a rumour current in foreign circles that England is in negotiation with the House of Rothschild for the purchase of the Domain Estates from the Egyptian Government.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, WEDNESDAY.

The Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, arrived at the Castle at 9 a.m. to-day from Balmoral. The suite in attendance consisted of the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe, the Dowager Marchioness of Ely, the Hon. Evelyn Moore, Miss Bauer, Lord Sackville, General the Right Hon. Sir H. Ponsonby, K.C.B., Captain A. Bigge, R.A., Mr. Sahl, and Dr. Reid.

The Princess Frederica of Hanover and the Baron von Pawel-Rammingen, who are at present in Paris, are, says the *Morning Post*, about to leave for Bagnières de Bigorre, where they propose to pass the winter. Before arriving at Paris the Princess Frederica spent eight days at Wiesbaden, where, by desire of Queen Victoria, she sat to a painter from Dusseldorf, her Majesty wishing to have a portrait of the eldest daughter of King George V. of Hanover. It is said that the portrait is a very successful one.

The Austro-Hungarian Ambassador and Countess Karolyi and family have left the Austrian Embassy for Cliveden, the Duke of Westminster's residence, near Taplow, which his Grace has lent his Excellency for the winter.

The Earl of Powis has arrived at his residence in Berkeley-square, from Powis Castle.

The Countess of Wilton has returned to town from Eaton Hall.

Lord Coleridge was worse on Wednesday evening than he had been for the past three or four days. His lordship had suffered severe pains during the day, and had to retire very early.

Mr. Anthony Trollope is making slow but sure progress towards recovery.

ARRIVAL OF THE FOOT GUARDS.

The *Batavia*, transport, Captain Talbot, which arrived at Spithead on Wednesday morning, with the Foot Guards from Egypt, steamed into harbour in the afternoon. As she neared the *St. Vincent*, training ship for boys, Commander W. H. Hall, the young tars ran aloft, their band played lively airs, and the cheers that went from aloft and from the decks of the men-of-war testified to the strength of lung of our juvenile seamen. The greetings were returned with great heartiness by the troops. Directly the *Batavia* was berthed alongside the southern jetty of the dockyard, General Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, Commanding the Southern District, with the members of his Staff, General Shute, whose son was among the officers, Admiral Superintendent M'Crea, and others, boarded the transport to find that while there had been some sickness during the voyage from dysentery, diarrhœa, and other causes, no deaths had occurred, and that officers and men were in the best of spirits, which had been only temporarily affected by the stormy weather experienced after leaving Gibraltar. Subjoined is a return of the troops who came home in the *Batavia*:—2d Battalion Coldstream Guards, 19 officers, 5 staff serjeants, and 556 men; 1st Scots Guards, 14 officers, 5 staff serjeants, and 346 men. The list of officers is as under:—1st Coldstream Guards—Colonel G. J. Wigram, Lieutenant-Colonels Manningham-Buller, R. S. Hall, Hon. E. A. B. Acheson, R. W. Follet, and Hon. E. E. T. Boscawen, Captains F. C. Manley and L. D. Mackinnon, Lieutenants J. R. Gladstone, G. V. Boyle, W. O. Corbett, G. Pleydell-Bouverie, P. A. Lovell, H. G. Shute, and H. Somers Cocks, Quartermaster Webster, Surgeon Major J. Percy, Surgeon J. C. Whipple, Major C. H. Chance (paymaster), 1st Scots Guards—Colonel G. W. Knox, Lieut.-Colonels H. Fludyer, Sir W. Gordon-Cumming, and Viscount Coke, Capt. F. Erskine, Lieutenants H. Wickham, H. L. White, T. Hare, C. Bowen, W. Pulteney, and C. Crutchley, Lieutenant and Adjutant the Hon. Dalrymple, Captain and Quartermaster J. M'Blain, and Surgeon Major W. R. Lane. Preparations were at once made for the disembarkation of the Scots Guards, who left by train for London at half-past four.

The uncertainty regarding the arrival of the transport at Portsmouth, it having been delayed beyond its time by contrary winds, had a considerable effect upon the congregation in the neighbourhood of Victoria Station, as no information could be gained until late in the day, when the troops would reach London. Throughout the afternoon, however, considerable throngs congregated in the neighbourhood of Wellington Barracks and Victoria Station, and when the band of the Scots Guards emerged from the barracks on the road to meet their comrades it was a signal for a large gathering of spectators. As on Monday, a number of police were in attendance, but they had little work to do, the crowd being most orderly. By half-past six there was a good assemblage of ladies and gentlemen inside the privileged space on the platform, amongst them being General Willis (lately commanding a division in Egypt); General Higginson, commanding the Home District; Colonel Clive, Grenadier Guards; Colonel Moncrieff, Scots Guards; Colonel Vivian, Colonel Campbell, Colonel the Hon. Paul Methuen, etc. The train arrived at twenty minutes after seven amidst loud cheers, which were redoubled as the band of the Regiment struck up the familiar quick-step of the Scot Guards "Highland Laddie." There was a scene of excitement, and much hand-shaking as the white helmeted soldiers emerged from the train, and General Higginson at once hastened to meet Colonel Knox, and congratulated him on his return, expressing the regrets of the Duke of Cambridge at his inability to be present and welcome the regiment. Very quickly, however, the men fell in on the platform, and were rapidly told off. Colonel Knox then gave the word "fours right" and "Quick march," and the men once more stepped off to the familiar strains of their own band. Outside the station the reception was as enthusiastic as that given to their comrades a couple of nights before, though the spectators were much less numerous. Quickly the little column passed up the Buckingham-palace-road and through the gates of their barracks, where their comrades, with wives and sweethearts, had turned out to greet them. Here there was no delay, and the regiment was soon dismissed to the comfortable quarters and good meal thoughtfully prepared. An advance party of thirty men of the Coldstream Guards came in by the same train, and marched to Chelsea Barracks. There were few people along the line of route, but those few gave them hearty cheers as they passed to their destination. It is announced that the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs will attend in State at the banquet to be given to the Brigade of Guards next Monday evening at the Royal Aquarium.

THE ROYAL REVIEW.

Applications to the Horse Guards for tickets for the review are already far in excess of the numbers for disposal. It has now been arranged that the troops, instead of dispersing at Trafalgar-square, shall continue their march on Saturday, via Cockspur-street, Whitehall, Parliament-street, and Great George's-street, to Birdcage-walk.

The preparations on the Horse Guards' Parade were continued with much energy on Wednesday, and considerable progress has already been made in the structure which is to accommodate the holders of privileged tickets. From early morn till late on Wednesday night wagons laden with timber were constantly arriving, and on other parts of the parade besides that immediately in the rear of the Horse Guards, where the two main pavilions are being erected, there were also signs of activity in preparation for Saturday's display. The angle near the India Office is to be utilised for a terrace. The space leading to the archway of the Horse Guards is to be left clear, and it is near here where the Royal Standard will be hoisted, and her Majesty witness the march past.

Special arrangements are being made at Scotland-yard to furnish a large contingent of the Metropolitan Police to keep the thoroughfares in the West-end indicated as those through which the troops will pass as clear as possible for the defile. All the available troops of the Home District not taking part in the review will be detailed for the duty of keeping the ground in and around the approaches to St. James's Park. General Higginson, with the consent of his Royal Highness the Field-Marshal Commanding sent invitations on Wednesday to the commanding officers of volunteer regiments in the metropolis, inviting them to supply men to keep the route through the West-end on the occasion of the Royal review on Saturday. Two or three commanding officers have already expressed their willingness to fall in with the suggestion.

It has been decided at the War Office that the officers to superintend the detraining of the troops which are coming up to London on Saturday morning will be Captain Southwood, 1st Life Guards; Lieutenant-Colonel A. Wellesley, Grenadier Guards; Lieutenant-Colonel Jones, Scots Guards; and Lieutenant-Colonel L. Scarlett, Scots Guards. It is also officially announced that Colonel Ewart, 2nd Life Guards, will command the combined regiments of Household Cavalry on Saturday, which will comprise eight officers, ninety non-commissioned officers and men, and ninety-eight horses of the 1st Life Guards; nine officers, 130 non-commissioned officers and men, and 140 horses of the 2nd Life Guards; and seven officers, 120 non-commissioned officers and men, and 127 horses of the Royal Horse Guards; Colonel Ewart's command thus making up a total of twenty-four officers, 340 non-commissioned officers and men, and 365 horses. The three battalions of Guards will each furnish about twenty-five officers and 500 non-commissioned officers and men, or 1,575, each being commanded as follows: 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, Colonel P. Smith; 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards, Colonel G. J. Wigram and 1st Battalion Scots Guards, Colonel G. W. Knox. The 15th Company of the Commissariat and Transport Corps, under Deputy Assistant-Commissary G. Fryer, will, after all, be mounted, the order on the subject stating that in addition to the seventeen horses the company will also furnish twenty mules. The Post Office contingent, under Captain Sturgeon, will number forty officers and men.

Arrangements are being made to decorate the line of route through which the troops will march after they leave the Horse Guards Parade on Saturday, and in the evening the event will be additionally celebrated by illuminations on a large scale.

It was notified on Wednesday to the troops at Aldershot and for general information, that by War Office letter, dated 14th inst., the Secretary of State for War has sanctioned a special allowance of 10d. being issued to each soldier of the troops brought to London on Saturday next to take part in the review by her Majesty of the troops recently returned from Egypt. This allowance will be in addition to any other due under the ordinary regulations of the service, and is granted in order to enable commanding officers to make arrangements for provisioning their men on the occasion.

THE MURDER OF THE JOYCE FAMILY.

VERDICT AND SENTENCE.

Mr. Justice Barry charged the Jury on Wednesday morning. He said, when he looked up into the box and recognised the faces, so familiar to him, of men not to be surpassed in the city for independence of character, education, and intelligence, he would not occupy their time in making any prefatory observations with a view of enlisting their attention or impressing upon them the solemnity of the duty which the laws of their country had imposed upon them. Neither should he expatiate upon the enormity of the crime into the circumstances of which they had been empannelled to inquire—a crime which in its unparalleled enormity had, he might say, without exaggeration, startled the civilised world. He should not refer to that topic for one purpose alone save another he should refer to presently, and that was to express his agreement with the eloquent language made use of both by counsel for the prisoner and for the Crown, that the more enormous the crime the more they should hesitate to fix the consequences of it upon any human being. The other topic connected with this subject which he would refer to was that pressed upon them by the Counsel for the prisoner, viz., that no motive had been proved by the Crown to exist on the part of the prisoner, or, indeed, any other reason to commit this terrible crime. They had been told that in a case of doubt or uncertainty there was nothing more natural than that the Juror's mind should be directed to the inquiry, was there any motive for the crime? and, if no motive for the crime could be discovered, that was a reason why at all events the Jury should inquire very cogently into the facts; but the peculiarity of this case was that the crime was, in its circumstances, so terrible and enormous, that it was impossible that any one man alone could be guilty of such a crime, or to have conceived it. Murders were committed for motives of vengeance, plunder, or to get out of the way a rival competing in some walk of life with them, but here an entire family had been massacred in cold blood, and when they spoke of motive they were immediately lost in mystery and uncertainty. It was an important question for them to consider whether the motive was not to be traced in that most remarkable piece of evidence given by the man named Thomas Casey, one of the so-called approvers, in answer to one of the Jury, that the reason he went with the party that night was, "By the orders I got;" and again, being asked by whose orders, he replied, "I got the orders from Pat Casey, who was one of the men, and broke in the door." His lordship could not help thinking that, in the annals of courts of justice in Ireland, there had not been given before a judge and jury a more remarkable piece of evidence. It was for them to say whether, in that mysterious language, they could not trace out a motive for whoever it was committed this crime. The learned judge then briefly alluded to the evidence of the surveyor who prepared the maps, and to the testimony of John Collins, who went to the house of the murdered family the morning after the murder to borrow an agricultural implement, and discovered the dead bodies. He also alluded to the evidence given by Constable Johnson, who examined the bodies and found the bullets. Anthony Joyce described how he was awakened by the barking of his dog, and on looking out saw the six men he named going on to Casey's house, where they all went in. The approver Philbin, however, swore that he remained outside; but this slight deviation was more confirmatory than otherwise of Joyce's statement. They remembered how Anthony Joyce went and roused his brother and nephew, and then followed the six men; how they subsequently saw ten men come out of Casey's, the prisoner being one of them, and how they tracked them on to the house of the murdered family, where they heard the door broken in and the shouts of the victims. It was for the Jury to say whether the story was a fabrication, or, if they did pursue ten men, whether they had substituted in their evidence the names of persons against whom they had some spite, or whom they suspected, for the persons they really saw there. It had been suggested that the ten men had an equal opportunity of seeing the men who followed them, but perhaps at that dead hour of night the idea did not enter their heads that they would be followed. His Lordship then proceeded to deal with the evidence of the approvers. The Jury, after eight minutes' deliberation, found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to be hanged on the 15th of December.

The trial was next commenced of Patrick Casey, aged 30, a fierce-looking man, whose hair almost stood on end. A new jury having been empanelled, he was indicted for the murder of Bridget Joyce, the mother of the family. The Attorney-General stated the case for the prosecution, emphasising that prisoner was one of the three who broke into Joyce's house, armed with the handle of a shovel with an iron ring on it.

THE POWER OF MARRIED WOMEN.—In the Probate and Divorce Division on Tuesday (before the Right Hon. the President), application was made in the case of re Joseph Shepherd, deceased. Mr. Bayford said that this case raised some difficulty with regard to the power of a married woman to act as executor. Mr. Joseph Shepherd died in October, 1881, and left a will, dated a few days before his death, by which he principally benefited his daugher, making her sole executor. She was living apart from her husband under a deed of separation. She now applied for a grant of administration to her attorney without consulting her husband. The property consisted principally of leaseholds, it being provided that a married woman could not deal with that class of property without the consent of her husband. By the new Married Woman's Property Act, which would come into operation in January, whether by accident or design he did not know, this class of property was not specified. The application was not opposed by the lady's husband. After hearing the argument, the learned judge said that he would consider the point raised.

PARLIAMENTARY SUMMARY.

The House of Commons made further progress on Wednesday with the Procedure Resolutions. In the first place, the Second Resolution, which was under consideration, was further amended, on the motion of Lord R. Churchill, so as to provide that if ten members rise in their places to support a motion for adjournment, they shall be entitled to demand a division. The Resolution was then agreed to, and the Third Resolution, which enables the Speaker or Chairman on motions for adjournment to confine the debate strictly to the motion, and forbids a second motion to be made by the same member, Mr. Gorst moved to exclude debates in the full House from the Resolution, but it was rejected on a division by 103 to 34. A motion by Sir H. Wolff to except debates on going into Supply and in Supply as well as the stages of the Appropriation Bill was not pressed to a division and Lord R. Churchill next moved to deprive the Chairman of Committees of the powers conferred by the Resolution. In the course of his speech Lord Randolph Churchill made some depreciatory remarks on the impartiality of Dr. Playfair, and specially criticized his vote for conferring on himself the powers of the clôture.

Mr. GLADSTONE opposed the amendment, which was also deprecated by Lord J. Manners and Sir R. Cross, and was ultimately negatived without a division.

Amendments were subsequently made in the Resolution, with the consent of Mr. Gladstone, excepting from the disability to renew a motion of adjournment those who have merely spoken to a previous motion, and also to except debates in Committees from this rule against repeated adjournments. The rest of the afternoon was spent on an amendment by Mr. A. Balfour suspending the operation of the Rule in respect to debates commenced after 12 30 a.m., which was ultimately negatived by 145 to 62.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL gave notice of Mr. Gladstone's intention to move to refer back to the Committee the report on Mr. Gray's case in reference to a paragraph moved by Mr. Sexton, and Mr. Sexton gave notice of his intention to move an enlargement of the reference.

The House adjourned at 5 minutes to 6 o'clock.

LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM "TRUTH.")

Sir Beauchamp Seymour will return to England towards the end of January with several of the vessels of his squadron, and the Queen will then review the Fleet at Spithead—that is to say, her Majesty will pass to and fro between the ships on the *Osborne* or *Alberta*.

If it is true that no reward is to be granted to the seamen, marines, and others for their services during the Egyptian campaign, there will be great and not unreasonable dissatisfaction amongst the persons interested, as, after the Abyssinian War, batta for three months was paid to the forces which had been engaged, and after the Ashantee War they received one month's extra pay. The Government are following the extravagant old precedents with exuberant zeal so far as the higher ranks are concerned, but it is a grave error to suppose that the grants to Sir Garnet Wolseley and to Sir Beauchamp Seymour are generally approved. At Perth Town Council last week very decided opinions on this subject were expressed, on the Lord Provost announcing that he had received a circular soliciting contributions to a fund in aid of widows and orphans of soldiers killed in Egypt. One member (a "staunch" Liberal, moreover!) inveighed against the Government for granting large sums to well-paid Generals, while the claims of relatives of private soldiers were ignored. Another suggested that the "presents" should be shared between the commanders and those for whom the proposed fund is being raised. It was generally agreed that it was a public scandal to enrich successful commanders at the expense of the taxpayers while so many poor men lost their lives, and their needy friends got nothing.

The chain, riband, and "George" worn by the late Dean Wellesley as Dean and Registrar of the Order of the Garter, will be delivered up to the Queen next week, probably by the Duke of Wellington, and at the approaching Investiture her Majesty will hand them over to Dean Connor, who, in right of the post, obtains, as "perquisite," the state robes of every Knight who dies.

Dr. Percival's appeal to old members for funds to build a new quad at Trinity College, Oxford, has not been particularly successful. With all respect to Dr. Percival, the way in which more than one popular Trinity man was passed over when the headship was vacant has not contributed to the *esprit de corps*.

One of the disadvantages of electing a schoolmaster to the leadership of a college is that he is sure to treat the Undergraduates like schoolboys. Oxford men of former days would have been considerably surprised to find that their lodgings had been selected for them by the President, and it seems that in the college where this plan has lately been tried, the men by no means appreciate the grandmotherly care which has been taken of them. Why the lodgings should not continue to be chosen by the persons who have to live in them is not very clear, but if the heads mean to undertake the task, they will be more likely to succeed if they call in the assistance of their wives or other female relatives.

It will be a difficult task to find for the Slade Professorship at Oxford a worthy successor to Professor Richmond, who has just resigned the office, and to Ruskin, who held it before him. There are several candidates in the field, and Mr. Comyns Carr, the well-known Director of the Grosvenor Gallery, is one of them. His essays and criticisms on art are refreshing from their freedom from conventionalities. Should he be appointed, there is no doubt but what his lectures will prove a good deal more interesting than those of others who would probably merely repeat in new words what has been said again and again.

A Dumfriesshire tenant farmer will shortly come into a vast fortune, as one of the heirs of the late Mr. A. T. Stewart, of New York. Seventeen of the millionaire's relatives have been discovered in Scotland and in America on the father's side; and the United States authorities are now seeking for his relatives on the mother's side, who will share equally with the others, if any can be found. There was always a mystery about Mr. Stewart's origin; but it has been discovered that he was the son of a couple who were married at Dolmellington, in 1798, his mother being a Miss Hunter. Mrs. Stewart, the widow, has already received her portion of four millions, but nearly twelve remain for division.

I thought the barbarous practice of caning on the hands had been relegated to the limbo in which reposes the Iron Maiden, the Army Cat, and other relics of the dark ages. But a Blue-coat boy tells me that it prevails and flourishes in unabated rigour in the centre of civilisation in Christ's Hospital, within the sacred precincts of the City of London. Every master (except three ushers) is allowed to keep a cane in his desk, which he may administer to his class at discretion. As discretion is not a quality so universally spread as is sometimes supposed, the use of the cane is frequent. One master in particular, I am told, rarely lets any of his boys leave his presence without at least a baker's dozen of cuts over the hand. As the youth of Eton and Winchester, and most other public schools of the first rank, are brought up without this ever present appeal to *vis major*—the worst possible incentive to learning—I should be glad to know why it is still thus retained at one of our largest and oldest public schools? If a man cannot teach without a cane, he ought to be himself caned until he can, or else give up teaching altogether.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 16—17, 1882.

FRENCH FINANCE.

Whatever may be the end of the present confusion in French finance, French publicists will at least obtain one satisfaction; they have thoroughly succeeded in drawing the attention of foreign nations to the fact that confusion exists. For weeks past our Paris correspondence has been occupied at frequent intervals with the squabbles and arguments of rival critics and rival politicians over this disturbing subject, and out of the noise they have raised has sprung an attention and interest abroad in the matters under dispute which should be highly gratifying to French vanity. One set of economical writers, headed by M. Leroy-Beaulieu, tells us that the national Exchequer is on the verge of bankruptcy, and another set, of whom M. Léon Say, perhaps, may be taken as the most prominent representative, insists that nothing is very desperate as yet, if France will only cease from extravagances forthwith, and adopt Free Trade. The one leader put forth his views in the *Débats* ten days ago, and the other contributed his opinions to the same paper in an article which was summarised in our impression of yesterday. But behind these there are armies of lesser critics, in the Press and in the Assembly, who, it is to be feared, use the state of the Treasury too often for political and private ends. Reactionaries of all kinds would be only too delighted were the present confusion to result in the embarrassment and, possibly, the overthrow of existing institutions, and, therefore, they make the most of the situation. The very fact that this is the case is enough to put impartial observers on their guard against too hasty conclusions. Affairs go badly, without question, but after all, and as measured by the state of public credit on the Bourse, they cannot be so desperate as the gloomier spirits make out. Three per Cent. Rentes, M. Leroy-Beaulieu tells us, have fallen, and are still falling. They have gone down six francs in two years. That is true enough, but they are still ten or eleven francs higher than they were in 1865, which was the high-water mark of credit under the late Empire; and in the interval the Debt has been about doubled, while only a few months ago all France was in the gulf of a speculative crisis. If matters had been so very desperate, surely Rentes would have now stood at much lower figures. To some extent, however, this may be a fallacious test. The Public Stocks of all civilised countries have risen more or less within the past ten years, and often from causes quite distinct from the state of their Treasuries. And, looking at the facts as set forth in official documents, there does seem cause to fear that, unless vigorous means be taken, the public credit of France cannot escape a very severe trial. The Republican Leaders have made several very patent mistakes in Finance. Their country wanted quiet, wanted peace and light taxation after the war, and they have given unrest, a short-sighted economic policy, and yearly augmented burdens. Not content with devoting unnecessarily large sums of money to the reorganisation of the Army in a way that made their proceedings a constant menace to the peace of Europe, they proceeded in 1877 and 1878 to organise a vast scheme of public works, upon which, as originally projected by M. de Freycinet, no less a sum than twenty million pounds a year was to be spent for ten years, but whose cost has already mounted beyond that by no means modest-looking figure. For the current year, in fact, the Budget credits on account of public works, ordinary and extraordinary, "amount to more than twenty-three millions sterling," and the 1883 Budget, now the great bone of contention, demands twenty-three and a half millions for the same purpose. These totals, moreover, are exclusive of the rapidly-increasing outlay by the Ministry of Public Instruction. Putting debt, war, and public works charges of every kind all in one sum, we find that they now impose a burden upon France of about one hundred millions sterling per annum, which is a height of extravagant expenditure never reached in any civilised country before in time of peace. As the ordinary revenue amounts to but one hundred and fifteen million pounds, and as all the other ordinary charges of the Administration have to be met, it follows, as a matter of course, that the revenue, screwed up to the highest point as it has been, does not suffice to cover the expenditure. Debt has to be increased, and that at a pace which has brought the Government Treasury practically to a dead-lock. It has issued all the Rentes the market would take up; more than this, it has borrowed all the trust and other funds it could lay hands on, and has committed itself to operations which, by the end of next year, will result in a floating debt exceeding one hundred and twenty million pounds, unless its steps are at once retraced. The programme, in short, has been in all directions too ambitious, and the Republican Leaders who drafted it must now pay the penalty of their folly. France also will have to suffer, but it is just possible that the very extremity of the dangers will save it from the upheavals and social turmoil that the reactionaries look for as the end of all this unwholesome pandering to the baser cravings of the Democracy. On all grounds it would be regretted were revolutionary passions again to break loose among the more fiery elements in the population; but matters need not come to that pass, bad though they may be, if those now responsible for order are wise in time. There has been too much of the Bourse and its surroundings in their method of government from first to last; but the Bourse has now failed them, and they may, therefore, be the readier to take the of advice M. Ribot, the Reporter to the Budget Committee. Excellent advice it is. In his view the proposed expenditure on public works is altogether excessive and pernicious, and ought to be at once cut down to proportions well within the means of the nation. As every device for raising the necessary funds for next year's extraordinary public works has fallen, as Rentes cannot be issued in the existing position of the market, and as no Paris bank or group of bankers has any money to spare, the Budget Committee and the Ministry itself may be driven to adopt this good counsel. The dream of progress at express speed will have to be abandoned, and the sooner it is so the sooner will France settle down again to quiet work; the sooner, too, will the path be opened for a return to that Free-trade policy which M. Léon Say regards as the only sound commercial policy for his country. Should, however, the advice of M. Ribot be disregarded, the time cannot be far distant when an accumulation of financial difficulties will fall upon the head of the group that now rules France, with what result no one can predict. It may be safely said, however, that a few years of persistence in the course fully entered upon in 1878 can lead only to national bankruptcy.—*Standard.*

THE STATE OF EGYPT.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Thursday:—

The preliminary inquiry began this afternoon with the examination of Ahmed Rifaat, formerly Director of the Native Press Bureau. Some idea of the probable length of the proceedings may be gained by noting the fact that during the afternoon eleven questions were asked by the President. To two of them the reply was the famous "*Non mi ricordo.*" Another produced a long account of a picnic to Kafrdawar of the President of the Court—a fact which no one denied, and which the President only allowed to be narrated because it was personal to himself. The other answers of the ex-official were shifty, only proving that he suppressed some articles, but allowed others tending to excite fanaticism; and that on one occasion he had, under orders from Arabi, refused to obey an order of the Khedive, prior to the bombardment.

A decree reduces the Extraordinary Budget from £540,000 to £385,000. The Dutch traveller Chower is reported by Abd-el-Kader to be safely on his way to Khartoum. The following statistics refer to the whole of the forces now in Cairo, consisting of 8,725 officers and men:—Returns for the first five days of November—New additions to the hospitals, 505; deaths, 15, of which 11 were caused by enteric fever. Second five days in the same month—Admissions—258; deaths, 7, of which five were from enteric fever. Returns for one day (November 15)—Number of patients from previous day, 776; new admissions, 38; discharged as convalescent, or sent home, 144; deaths, 4; total remaining, 666. The sick list shows that 7 per cent. of the infantry, 11 per cent. of the artillery, and 15 per cent. of the cavalry are in the hospitals.

THE HISTORY OF THE CAUCUS.

Materials for the secret history of that great institution, popularly known as "The Birmingham Caucus," are accumulating Mr. T. Satchell Hopkins has contributed to the *Birmingham Daily Gazette* an elaborate historical essay intended to complete and extend the recent criticisms of Mr. Marriott, M.P.:—

The Birmingham Liberal Association dates from 1867, but the idea of the caucus originated about 1871 among the members of a close club called the Arts Club, with the direct intention of obtaining entire control of the municipal government of the town. How much in the dark they kept themselves is shown by the fact that "for some reasons not quite apparent" the committee then formed kept no record or minutes of its meetings. Making their secret council a wheel within the wheel of the Liberal Association, they presently allied themselves with a certain "Central Nonconformist Committee," consisting of a few Dissenting preachers and local preachers, who, under the secretaryship of Mr. Schnadhorst, had assumed a political character. Thence follows the usual story of a political "ring." For American institutions we must use American words, just as for French importations we must use French words. Of course the system of government has been to make implicit obedience to the dictation of a clique the sole test of fitness for taking any part in the municipal, charitable, educational, and social work of the town. Through the once poorly-paid secretary to a little knot of Nonconformists, now the well-paid secretary of the Liberal Association, the caucus rules Birmingham, and, carried away by its success, aspires to rule England. But the most extraordinary part of the story neither Mr. Marriott, nor Mr. Hopkins, nor certainly Mr. Schnadhorst, has yet told. How is it that a Birmingham Radical elects to be a slave unless it be in the hope that he may in his turn become a well-paid slave driver? And why, unless Birmingham has already reached the lowest depth of political degradation, is a clique with such a history tolerated for a single hour?—*Globe.*

THE SLAVE TRADE IN EGYPT.—Lord Shaftesbury presided on Tuesday over a meeting held at Willis's Rooms, for the purpose of urging the Government to embrace the present opportunity to abolish slavery in Egypt. The speakers included Cardinal Manning, Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P., Sir J. Kennaway, M.P., Sir T. F. Buxton, and the Rev. R. W. Felkin, who, as a missionary, had recently been in the Nile Valley and the Soudan, where, he said, the slave traffic still continued, forty thousand slaves being annually taken over the Egyptian borders. Most of the speakers dwelt on the fact of England's responsibility in the matter, and Mr. Forster said there never has been such an opportunity of striking a blow at slavery, which would be encouraged if action were not now taken by the British Government. "We had interfered so much now in Egypt that there was no excuse for not interfering so much further as to make it better by the suppression of slavery. If we wished 'Egypt for the Egyptians' should start fair, what would do more in that direction than removing and abolishing this incubus of slavery? If that great step in civilization were attained the English people would feel they had got some recompense for their sacrifices in Egypt." Resolutions calling for the suppression of the traffic were adopted.

THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT IN EGYPT.—The general officers lately holding commands in Egypt have all reported, we (the *Standard*) understand, most unfavourably on the work done by the Army Medical Department in Egypt, and their statements fully bear out the charges preferred by our special correspondent. Sir Garnet Wolseley is of opinion that the system will have to undergo considerable modifications, and that to its defects the collapse of the arrangements for the care of the sick and wounded is principally due.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE HOME RULERS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

Mr. R. YORKE gave notice that he will move for a Select Committee to inquire into the circumstances attending the release of Mr. Parnell and the other imprisoned M.P.'s, adding a hope that as the resolution had been submitted to the Prime Minister and received his approval, he would use his influence with his friends to prevent opposition to it, or, if it were opposed, that he would make such arrangements as would remove it from the operation of the 12 30 Rule.

Mr. GLADSTONE was understood to deny that he had approved the Resolution, but he certainly would not oppose it. As to what should be done if others opposed it, it would be better to wait to see whether any notice of opposition were given.

THE MURDER OF PROFESSOR PALMER.

In answer to Mr. W. H. Smith, Mr. Gladstone read a telegram from Colonel Warren, holding out hopes that he would be able shortly to bring in most of the murderers of Professor Palmer, Captain Gill, and Lieutenant Charrington.

THE ARREARS ACT.

In answer to Mr. Dickson, Mr. GLADSTONE said he thought it would be unsatisfactory to the House at this period of the Session to find itself engaged on legislation for the amendment of the Arrears Act, but the Government would do all in its power to prevent the benevolent intentions of the Legislature being frustrated; and he was informed by the Land Commissioners that the business before them would be despatched by the end of the month.

THE NEW LAW COURTS.

In answer to a question from Mr. M'Laren, Mr. SHAW-LEFEVRE announced that the Law Courts will be opened on December 2, and he had every reason to believe that her Majesty would personally perform the ceremony. Accommodation could only be provided for the House of Commons to the number of 150 tickets, including 50 for ladies. The gentlemen would be expected to appear in levée dress (at this there was much laughter), and the ladies in morning dress. Accommodation would be provided as far as possible for the Junior Bar.

RULES OF PROCEDURE.

The House proceeded with the New Rules, and, after Rule 3 had been affirmed without a division, Mr. Gladstone moved the Rule 4, which provides that on a division being challenged the Speaker or Chairman may call on the challengers to rise in their places, and, if they do not exceed 20, may declare his decision without a division.

After several amendments had been disposed of a question was raised which led to a protracted and somewhat confused and technical controversy. It was pointed out that the Resolution conflicted with Resolution 2 inasmuch as it gave the right to ten members to require a division on a motion for adjournment at question time, while this Resolution empowered the Speaker to refuse a division at any time unless 20 members stood up to demand it. Mr. Gladstone, the Attorney-General, and the Solicitor-General denied that there was any conflict, while the contrary was maintained by Lord R. Churchill, Mr. Gorst, and others. Ultimately the Speaker expressed the opinion that the point was open to some doubt, and that it might be as well to put in words which would except Resolution 2 from the operation of Resolution 4. Mr. Gladstone, while intimating that his own conclusion was different, accepted the decision of the Chair, and agreed to insert words, and a further discussion arose as to the best mode of removing the ambiguity. In the middle of it Mr. Warton maintained that the Resolution would also be in conflict with Resolution 1, as it might deprive minorities under 20 of the opportunity of ascertaining whether the majority in favour amounted to the requisite number of 100. But on this point the Speaker held that under Resolution 1 it would not be competent for him to call upon members to rise in their places. Mr. A. O'Connor, as a means of extricating the House from the difficulty, moved the adjournment of the debate, which was seconded by Mr. Biggar, and supported by Mr. Salt, Mr. M'Carthy, and others, and in the course of the discussion Mr. Gibson, on an appeal to the Chair from Mr. Dillwyn, was silenced under the operation of Resolution 3 just agreed to, requiring speakers to an adjournment to confine themselves to the subject matter. The motion was negatived by 120 to 69, and after this an amendment moved by Mr. Parker concerning the Rule to divisions after the order of the day and notices of motion was carried by 85 to 15.

Mr. GORST next moved an amendment requiring that the usual process of clearing the House for a division shall be gone through before members are required to stand up, but this was strongly resisted by the Solicitor-General and Mr. Gladstone, who said he was willing to restrict the rule to dilatory motions, but he objected to giving obstructives the additional opportunity of wasting time. Mr. Sexton ridiculed as puerile the idea of saving a couple of minutes. Lord John Manners, Sir R. Cross, Mr. Sclater-Booth, and others, joined in urging the Government to give way, and Mr. Macfarlane pointed out that the Resolution, if unamended, might be defeated by a "count out." After a discussion of nearly two hours, Lord Hartington intimated that they would accept the amendments of Mr. Gorst, Mr. Buchanan, and Mr. Rylands, so that the Resolution will be confined to motions for adjournment during any debate in the House or in Committee, and that members shall not be directed to stand up until the House has been cleared, and after a lapse of two minutes, as indicated by the sand glass. This gave general satisfaction, and after some verbal amendments had been made, the Resolution was agreed to.

On Resolution 5, which empowers the Speaker to silence a member for continued irrelevance and tedious repetition, Mr. Gibson proposed that the offending member should be warned before being silenced, but on a division this was negatived by 120 to 52, and, after some further discussion, the resolution was agreed to.

The debate was then adjourned.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, THURSDAY.

Yesterday her Majesty, with the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Princess Beatrice, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe, the Dowager Duchess of Ely, Major-General Du Plat, Captain Bigge, Equerries, Colonel Sir John C. M'Neill, V.C., and Major Lane, drove from Windsor Castle through the town in an open carriage drawn by four ponies, preceded by two outriders, to the Cavalry Barracks for the purpose of inspecting the detachment of the 2d Life Guards who have recently returned from Egypt. The men, under the command of Colonel Ewart, were paraded near the right wing of the barracks, and afterwards marched to the riding-school, where they were drawn up and received her Majesty with a Royal Salute, the band of the regiment playing the National Anthem. After inspecting the men, the Queen and Royal party were conducted over the hospital, her Majesty passing through several of the wards and remaining in conversation with some of the sick who had just returned from the war. On leaving the hospital, the Queen inspected the stables, after which the Royal party returned to the Castle.

A deputation of the Town Council of the Borough of Windsor, consisting of the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Mr. J. Devereux, and a number of Councillors, had the honour of presenting the Duke of Connaught, K.G., yesterday afternoon, in the Corridor, with an address of congratulation on the safe return of his Royal Highness from Egypt, her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught being present. Major and the Hon. Mrs. Egerton were in attendance. A torchlight procession, consisting of a detachment of the 2d Life Guards and Windsor Volunteers, took place in the Quadrangle of the Castle last evening, in honour of his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. The procession, headed by the band of the 2d Life Guards and Coldstream Guards entered the Castle at a quarter past 6 o'clock by the Long Walk Gates, and after marching past the Queen and the Royal Family, who witnessed the scene from the Corridor, went through various evolutions, and lit up figures representing the letters A. and V.R. upon the ground in the Quadrangle. Her Majesty's dinner party included the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Princess Beatrice, the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe, the Dowager Marchioness of Ely, the Hon. Mrs. Egerton, Viscount Torrington, Colonel Lord E. Pelham Clinton, Colonel Sir John C. M'Neill, K.C.M.G., V.C., Colonel Sir Howard Elphinstone, K.C.B., V.C., Brigade-Major Herbert, Grenadier Guards, Major Ronald B. Lane, R.A., A.D.C., and Dr. Scott.

The Hon. Mary Pitt and the Hon. Amy Lambart have arrived at the Castle as Maids of Honour in Waiting.

Viscount Torrington, Colonel Lord E. Pelham Clinton, and Major-General Du Plat have arrived as Lord, Groom, and Equerry in Waiting.

Lord Sackville and the Hon. Evelyn Moore have left the Castle.

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, THURSDAY.

The Prince of Wales, attended by Colonel A. Ellis, arrived this evening from Norwich, where his Royal Highness opened the new Agricultural-hall, and visited the Norfolk and Norwich Christmas Show for the year, of which he is president.

The Prince of Wales also attended a meeting of the Prisoners' Aid Society for the county of Norfolk, and moved a resolution.

The Crown Princess of Germany (Princess Royal of Great Britain and Ireland) left Paddington on Thurday evening by the 5.10 p.m. Great Western express *en route* for Windsor, on a visit to the Queen at the Castle.

Baron Mohrenheim, the Russian Ambassador, arrived at Dover on Wednesday from London, and, after staying the night at the Lord Warden Hotel, lef, on Thursday for Calais.

Musurus Pacha and family have returned to the Turkish Embassy, Bryanston-square, from Bohun-lodge, East Barnet, where they have been spending the autumn.

Mr. Henry A. B. Carter, Hawaiian Minister and Envoy Extraordinary to the French Republic, has left Claridge's Hotel on his retrun to the Sandwich Islands.

Lord Coleridge was decidedly better last night.

Sir Stafford Northcote will leave England either on Wednesday or Thursday next, and will proceed, *via* the Bay of Biscay to the Mediterranean, where he will remain two months, in order to recruit his health.

FREETHINKERS AND FREE THINKERS.

These, says the *St. James's Gazette*, are the thoughts of a Free Thinker on freethinking:—

Lord Queensberry's attempt to enforce a clôture upon Mr. Tennyson's misrepresentation of the character of "secularist freethinker and so-called atheist" seems a little hard upon the persons whom it was apparently designed to protect. But this is by reason of a misunderstanding which Lord Queensberry certainly shares, and probably wishes to promulgate, but which I will, if you will allow me, say a few words to dissipate. The name "freethinker" is misleading, and even, if I may say so, rather untradesmanlike. It leads the unwary to suppose that a freethinker is a Free Thinker, whereas he is in truth nothing of the kind. If he were free to think what he pleased he might choose not to be an atheist or a secularist (whatever that may be). He might choose to be even a ritualist, or possibly not to be any sort of -ist at all. Lastly, he might, if he were really free, decide to hold those opinions about marriage which were so artfully expressed by Mr. Herman Vezin that Lord Queensberry's horror and indignation burst out in the inopportune remonstrance which, as he informs the readers of the *Daily Telegraph*, led to his forcible but kindly removal. But since a man holding the opinions of Edgar is not a freethinker, and since Mr. Tennyson's base insinuation that he was had to be disproved even at the cost of the martyrdom of a marquess, it follows that a freethinker may not hold those opinions, and is consequently not free. But there are more limitations upon a freethinker than these. A year or two ago a meeting was held, I believe in St. James's Hall, to express sympathy with Mr. Bradlaugh. Lord Queensberry occupied a place on the platform, and said that he was a fellow-martyr with Mr. Bradlaugh, and was ostracized by the Scotch peers for being a freethinker just as Mr. Bradlaugh was by the Commons. And he went on to say that he believed in the religion of Humanity, and so he felt sure did Mr. Bradlaugh, and that therefore it was very wrong to call them atheists. Whence it must be inferred that a freethinker must not only not be a Christian, a Buddhist, a Mahommedan, a pagan, or an Edgar, but he must be a humanitarian. Now the religion of Humanity is a very positive and a very surprising religion, and I confidently assert that a man who is required to believe it is not free. I have now sub tantiated the assertion with which I set out, that a freethinker is not a Free Thinker? A Free Thinker must be a thinker who is free. What is a thinker? A person who thinks. Now I take it to be an ascertained physiological fact that, leaving out of account a few idiots of rare and extreme idiocy, everybody thinks. Therefore every-body is a thinker. The question remains, What thinkers are free? Freedom has been defined as the absence of restraint. Now there are some persons who hold that what a person thinks depends entirely upon circumstances, or the environment, or the universe, or the grey matter of his brain, or something else that he did not make and cannot control. This, I am given to understand, is called Necessitarianism. On the other hand, some persons believe that everybody thinks what he pleases; and this theory is called Free Will. I know of no intermediate theory; whence I gather that one of them is true. Now, given Necessitarianism, thought is never free, but is, on the contrary, the product of an infinite number of restraints; and therefore nobody is a Free-thinker. On the other hand, given Free Will, everybody is a Free-thinker. Therefore the great body of Free-thinkers comprises either the whole human race or nobody at all. But it is not at all necessary to be a Free-thinker. If everybody is a Free-thinker, Edgar is one among the rest. If nobody is a Free-thinker, Mr. Tennyson has misrepresented nobody. To accuse the poet of misrepresentation is therefore absurd. Edgar is certainly not a Free-thinker, and certainly not an orthodox Presbyterian. But no one ever said he was either; and I cannot see that Lord Queensberry had any more business to get up and make a disturbance about him than a Scotch elder would have had."

The following is Lord Queensberry's letter to the *Daily Telegraph*, referred to above:—

SIR,—As no doubt an incident that occurred to-night (Tuesday) at the Globe Theatre will find its way into some of the daily papers, I trust that you will allow me to make a few remarks in explanation of what actually took place in reference to myself, as otherwise my motive may be utterly misconstrted not only by those who were present at the time, but by others of the public outside who may hear any report not quite correctly stated of what actually did occur. This evening I went to hear the new piece by Mr. Tennyson as represented at the Globe Theatre, *The Promise of May*. Towards the close of the first act, when the gentleman representing the character of Edgar appeared on the stage I instantly became deeply interested when I perceived the character he, Edgar, had come to represent, or rather as I took it, most grossly to misrepresent. After listening a few minutes to the sentiments expressed by this gentleman freethinker and atheist of Mr. Tennyson's imagination I became so horrified and indignant that, rising in my stall, I simply, in a loud voice, made the following remarks *a propos* of Edgar's comments upon "Marriage": "These are the sentiments that a professing Christian (meaning Mr. Tennyson) has put into the mouth of his imaginary freethinker, and it is not the truth." This is all I said and I sat down. When the curtain fell at the end of the first act, there were several good-natured cries and calls upon myself from different parts of the theatre, to explain myself. I rose, and endeavoured to do so, as I was naturally most anxious that the motives of my interruption should not be miscontrued either by those in the theatre or by the public who might hear of it outside. I was forcibly but kindly removed while endeavouring to explain myself and protesting against Mr. Tennyson's misrepresentations of the sentiments of the secularists and freethinkers and so-called atheists of England. My statement of the facts will, I presume, explain my motives. I am a secularist and a freethinker, and, though I repudiate it, a so—called atheist, and as President of the British Secular Union I protest against Mr. Tennyson's abominable caricature of an individual whom, I presume, he would have us believe represents some body of people, which, thanks to the good of humanity, most certainly does not exist amongst Freethinkers.
—Faithfully yours,
Tuesday Night. QUEENSBERRY.

GALE AND SNOWSTORMS.

There was a heavy fall of snow in the metropolis during Wednesday night, and for some hours on Thursday morning. For several hours on Thursday morning snow fell very heavily at Richmond, Twickenham, and neighbouring towns, and some of the outlying districts now present an exceedingly wintry appearance. The River Thames is still high, and should the present weather continue—as appears most probable—more disastrous floods may be expected. A great quantity of land in the neighbourhood is still submerged. A heavy snowfall has occurred at Guildford, being the first snow experienced there this season. The valleys being already full of water from the recent inundations, this addition to the flood water is likely to have serious consequences when the snow melts. A heavy northerly gale raged on the Cornish coast on Wednesday night. The *Susan and Elizabeth*, of Dartmouth, drove ashore near Hayle, and is expected to become a total wreck. Her crew were saved by the rocket apparatus. The crew of the Hayle life boat, which had put out to render assistance, had a narrow escape. A message dated Thursday afternoon says:—The gale continues with unabated fury. In St. Ive's Bay a brig foundered this morning, with all hands, neither the pilot boat nor the lifeboat being able to reach her. A steamer, believed to be disabled, is now off St. Ive's Bay, and a smack has gone ashore above Godrevy Lighthouse. A severe snowstorm burst over North Wales during Wednesday night and continued on Thursday morning. In some parts snow is several inches deep. The higher mountains of Wales have been capped with snow for several days. The river floods have gone down considerably this week, though much land and produce is still submerged, and some time must elapse before the floods altogether disappear. Messages from West Berks, North Hants, and Wilts report a severe snowstorm in that part of the country. There are no serious drifts, but the snow is already several inches deep, and the country has assumed a most winterly aspect. Snow fell heavily in Birmingham and district throughout Wednesday night. At nine o'clock on Thursday morning the average depth was five inches, when a rapid thaw set in.

CURIOUS WILL CASE.—In the Chancery Division on Thursday Mr. Justice Chitty heard the case of "Potts v. Brassey," which raised a curious question upon the construction of the will of Mr. Allnutt, who died in May, 1881. The testator bequeathed the residue of his personal estate to his wife and to his daughter Lady Brassey, jointly for their separate use, adding a recommendation that they should dispose of the same in favour of charitable objects, and at the same time declaring the motive for his recommendation to be that he had amply provided for those two persons and his remaining daughter by other legacies contained in his will. The testator also bequeathed sums of £1,000 to Lady Brassey and to other persons, to enable them to purchase mementos. Lady Brassey had upon her marriage entered into the usual covenant to settle, upon the trusts of her marriage settlement, property (except jewellery, etc.), of the value of £500 and upwards, acquired during coverture, and the question therefore arose whether the two legacies were bound by the covenant. Lady Brassey and her husband, Sir Thomas Brassey, were anxious to carry out the recommendations of the testator with respect to the residuary bequest, which amounted to a very large sum of money. Mr. Ince, Q.C., Mr. Macnaghten, Q.C., Mr. Romer, Q.C., Mr. Hume, Mr. Tucker, Mr. Prior, and Mr. F. C. Norton were the counsel appearing. His Lordship said that the expressions in the will in no way disclosed any intention on the part of the testator to bind the legatees. The two legacies were, notwithstanding the recommendation and wish annexed to them, left to Lady Brassey absolutely, and he must therefore hold that the £1,000, and the half of the residue were bound by the covenant in her marriage settlement, and must be settled upon its trusts.

ECCLESIASTICAL APPOINTMENTS.—The valuable rectory of Eccleston, near Chorley, Lancashire, has been conferred on the Rev. Humphry W. Bretherton, B.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, who was only ordained last year and has been curate of Rochdale. The living is worth £1,355. The *Guardian* says:—The Rev. William Wheeler Aldridge, rural dean for the Deanery of Pawlett: Rev. W. J. Brookes, vicar of Norland—patron, the, Vicar of Halifax; Rev. H. J. Cheales, rural dean of Candlesho, Nos. 1 and 2; Rev. S. Ernest Cornish, curate-in-charge of the Whelley Mission Wigan, curate of Bishop Ryder's, Birmingham; Rev. James Johnson Downes, B.A., Chaplain of Somerset Connty Lunatio Asylum; Rev. Francis Douglas Dymock, M.A., vicar of Englishcombe; Rev. J. A. Fishbourne, rector of Llandyssil; Rev. Canon Haigh, vicar of St. Maurice's, Winchester, vicar of Newport, Isle of Wight—patron, the Bishop of Winchester; Rev. Morgan Hughes, vicar of Betws Ammanford, rector of Derwen; Rev. Canon Long, M.A., vicar of St. Andrew's, Auckland, Archdeacon of Auckland—patron, the Bishop of Durham; Rev. Robert Blake Poole, M.A., assistant inspector of schools for Ilminster District; Rev. J. W. Robinson, M.A., vicar of North Petherton, rural dean of Bridgwater, prebendary of Cudworth in Wells Cathedral—patron, the Bishop; Rev. Ernest Bickersteth Savage, M.A., vicar of Kirk Michael, Isle of Man, vicar of St. Thomas's, Douglas, Isle of Man; Rev. J. Storr, B.A., Principal of the Birkenhead College, licence to officiate generally within the diocese of Chester; Rev. Edward Venables, M.A., senior curate of St. Ann's, Soho, vicar of St. John's, Drury-lane—patron, Sir Walter James; Ven. H. W. Watkins, D.D., Archdeacon of Auckland, Archdeacon and Canon of Durham—patron, the Bishop of Durham; Rev. Charles Alix Wilkinson, M.A., rector of Childerley (to be held with Boxworth, under a faculty from the Archbishop of Canterbury).

FATAL ACCIDENT TO AN OFFICER. — Captain H. E. Nield, of the 45th Regiment, died on Tuesday at Botwell Lodge, Hayes, near Uxbridge, from the effects of an accident with which he met on the 4th inst., whilst driving down Richmond-hill. His horse became unmanageable, and, after scattering some vegetables and fruit displayed in front of a shop, dashed against the plate-glass windows of another shop. The windows were smashed and the frame-work torn away, and the dog-cart turned over in the road. Captain Nield and a lady and gentleman with him were thrown out with great violence. Captain Nield was picked up insensible, suffering from concussion of the brain. The other occupants of the dog-cart were also injured, but not seriously.

MARRIAGE IN THE SALVATION ARMY. — A scene of considerable excitement was witnessed on Wednesday morning at Wycliffe Independent Chapel, Heaton Norris, on the occasion of the wedding of two captains of the Salvation Army, the brides having been stationed in Stockport since the opening of the mission in that town. The chapel was filled to overflowing, and, pending the arrival of the wedding party, Salvation hymns were sung with great heartiness. General Booth performed the ceremony, being accompanied by Majors Pearson and Taylor, and other officers of the Army, and assisted by the Rev. W. A. Blake, minister of the chapel. The bride and bridegroom wore the uniform of the Army, with the exception of the bride's bonnet, which had white satin strings. During the service there were frequent shouts of "Amen," "Hallelujah," with waving of handkerchiefs, and the firing of "volleys."

DOUBTFUL REFORM.—We cannot congratulate the Municipal Reform League upon the way in which they expended a portion of their small balance on Lord Mayor's Day. The little hand-bill so liberally distributed asked the very pertinent question, Why should not the Lord Mayor rule over 4,000,000 of people rather than 50,000? Surely, the answer suggests itself, because he is the representative of local, not imperial government. The question also suggests another important consideration. It proposes to extend the Corporation suddenly, at one blow as it were, from a district of one square mile to a district of about 120, and from ruling over 50,000 people to ruling over 4,000,000. This can scarcely be called gradual, or, as the phrase used to be, bit-by-bit reform; it seems more like extinction by absorption. Of course, there is a blunder even in this little bill, for if the Lord Mayor rules over only 50,000 people, either they must be the wealthiest body of people on the face of the earth, or they must be ground down to the very dust by the awful amount of rates they pay. If these 50,000 people represent the only subjects of the Lord Mayor, on the one hand, they pay income-tax on schedule D on nearly forty millions of annual profits, and, on the other, they pay rates to an amount of about £700,000 a year. In the one case every man, woman, and child must have an income from trade of about £800 per annum; in the other, every head of a family must pay about £70 a year in rates. What wonderful blunderers are these Leaguers, who so desire to be our guides, philosophers, and friends!—*City Press.*

A SUCCESSFUL DANE.—The Copenhagen correspondent of the *St. James's Gazette*, writing on Saturday, says:—It was during that in commercial circles even still well-remembered year, 1857, which in one week included several "black Fridays," that the "Privat Bank" of Copenhagen was founded, and Mr. Tietgen, until then only known as a clever clerk and commercial traveller for a Manchester house, was appointed managing director of the new establishment. Since then 25 years have lapsed. The "Privat Bank" has become one of the leading institutions of Denmark—I may say of Scandinavia—and Mr. Tietgen has created the Great Northern Telegraph Company, has started the Danish "Cunard" service to America, he has created the Danish General Steam Navigation Company, which has now about 70 steamers plying all over the world; he is a director of a dozen other companies, and his King has honoured him with the title of a Privy Councillor and the Cross of a Commander of the Dannebrog, one of the few Continental decorations which as yet have not been vulgarised. It is, therefore, no wonder that a few days ago the anniversary of the foundation of the "Privat Bank" was celebrated almost as a national *fête* day. Mr. Tietgen has his detractors and his crotchets; but he is certainly one of the men who have deserved well not only of his country, but of the world—a rare chance for a man born in a small country like Denmark. On the occasion of this anniversary he received more than 300 telegrams of congratulation from all parts of the world, the signatures including those of many of the leading financiers of Europe.

SUPPOSED BURGLARY BY SOLDIERS AT EASTBOURNE.—On Tuesday one of the shops of Mr. Humphrey, ladies' fancy costume maker, in a leading business thoroughfare in Eastbourne, was broken into, and some valuable articles of ladies' clothing stolen. Mr. Humphrey was disturbed during the night by a noise, and on going into the shop found it in a most disordered state, many of the best articles being thrown about in all directions, as if the burglars had been on the premises for some time. They had, however, got clear off when the proprietor came down stairs. The local police traced the missing articles to the Redoubt Fore barracks, where the Scottish Rifles, Company, had been stationed since their removal to Eastbourne from the Tower of London. Two privates of that regiment named Miller and McClintock were arrested on Wednesday night on a charge of being concerned in the burglary, as the missing articles were found under the boards of their sleeping apartment. The two accused soldiers were out later than usual on the night of the burglary, and the corporal of the company was placed under arrest by the military authorities for not reporting to the officers the absence during Tuesday night of Miller and McClintock.

"TYPES OF BRITISH WEATHER."—The opening meeting of the session of the Meteorological Society was held on Wednesday at the Institution of Civil Engineers, under the presidency of Mr. J. K. Laughton. Eleven new fellows were elected. A paper by the Honourable Ralph Abercromby on "Certain Types of British Weather" was readby the secretary. The author showed that there was a tendency of the weather all over the temperate zone to occur in spells, associated with certain types of pressure distribution. In Gerat Britain there were at least four persistent types—the southerly, the westerly, the northerly, and the easterly. In spite of much fluctuation, one or other of these types would often continue for weeks together, and tend to recur at the same date every year. The value of the recognition of type-groups was stated to be—first, that they explained many phenomena of weather and many popular prognostics; secondly, that in some cases they enabled forecasts to be issued with greater certainty and for a longer time ahead; thirdly, that by their means statistical results could be corrected by giving the real test of identity of recurrent weather, which no single item, such as heat, cold, rain, etc., could do; and fourthly, that by their means it was possible to treat such geological questions as the influence of changing distribution of land and sea on climate in a more satisfactory manner than by any other method. A paper was also read by Professor E. Douglas Archibald, M.A., on "The Use of Kites for Meteorological Observation."

DISASTERS AT SEA.—A distressing casualty is reported from Burntisland. Several vessels riding in the roads signalled for a pilot, and a boat containing three pilots and two young men put off from the shore. About three-

Galignani's Messenger.

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Great-Britain.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 16—17, 1882.

FRENCH FINANCE.

Whatever may be the end of the present confusion in French finance, French publicists will at least obtain one satisfaction; they have thoroughly succeeded in drawing the attention of foreign nations to the fact that confusion exists. For weeks past our Paris correspondence has been occupied at frequent intervals with the squabbles and arguments of rival critics and rival politicians over this disturbing subject, and out of the noise they have raised has sprung an attention and interest abroad in the matters under dispute which should be highly gratifying to French vanity. One set of economical writers, headed by M. Leroy-Beaulieu, tells us that the national Exchequer is on the verge of bankruptcy, and another set, of whom M. Léon Say, perhaps, may be taken as the most prominent representative, insists that nothing is very desperate as yet, if France will only cease from extravagances forthwith, and adopt Free Trade. The one leader put forth his views in the *Débats* ten days ago, and the other contributed his opinions to the same paper in an article which was summarised in our impression of yesterday. But behind these there are armies of lesser critics, in the Press and in the Assembly, who, it is to be feared, use the state of the Treasury too often for political and private ends. Reactionaries of all kinds would be only too delighted were the present confusion to result in the embarrassment and, possibly, the overthrow of existing institutions, and, therefore, they make the most of the situation. The very fact that this is the case is enough to put impartial observers on their guard against too hasty conclusions. Affairs go badly, without question, but after all, and as measured by the state of public credit on the Bourse, they cannot be so desperate as the gloomier spirits make out. Three per Cent. Rentes, M. Leroy-Beaulieu tells us, have fallen, and are still falling. They have gone down six francs in two years. That is true enough, but they are still ten or eleven francs higher than they were in 1865, which was the high-water mark of credit under the late Empire; and in the interval the Debt has been about doubled, while only a few months ago all France was in the gulf of a speculative crisis. If matters had been so very desperate, surely Rentes would have now stood at much lower figures. To some extent, however, this may be a fallacious test. The Public Stocks of all civilised countries have risen more or less within the past ten years, and often from causes quite distinct from the state of their Treasuries. And, looking at the facts as set forth in official documents, there does seem cause to fear that, unless vigorous means be taken, the public credit of France cannot escape a very severe trial. The Republican Leaders have made several very patent mistakes in Finance. Their country wanted quiet, wanted peace and light taxation after the war, and they have given unrest, a short-sighted economic policy, and yearly augmented burdens. Not content with devoting unnecessarily large sums of money to the reorganisation of the Army in a way that made their proceedings a constant menace to the peace of Europe, they proceeded in 1877 and 1878 to organise a vast scheme of public works, upon which, as originally projected by M. de Freycinet, no less a sum than twenty million pounds a year was to be spent for ten years, but whose cost has already mounted beyond that by no means modest-looking figure. For the current year, in fact, the Budget credits on account of public works, ordinary and extraordinary, "amount to more than twenty-three millions sterling," and the 1883 Budget, now the great bone of contention, demands twenty-three and a half millions for the same purpose. These totals, moreover, are exclusive of the rapidly-increasing outlay by the Ministry of Public Instruction. Putting debt, war, and public works charges of every kind all in one sum, we find that they now impose a burden upon France of about one hundred millions sterling per annum, which is a height of extravagant expenditure never reached in any civilised country before in time of peace. As the ordinary revenue amounts to but one hundred and fifteen million pounds, and as all the other ordinary charges of the Administration have to be met, it follows, as a matter of course, that the revenue, screwed up to the highest point as it has been, does not suffice to cover the expenditure. Debt has to be increased, and that at a pace which has brought the Government Treasury practically to a dead-lock. It has issued all the Rentes the market would take up; more than this, it has borrowed all the trust and other funds it could lay hands on, and has committed itself to operations which, by the end of next year, will result in a floating debt exceeding one hundred and twenty million pounds, unless its steps are at once retraced. The programme, in short, has been in all directions too ambitious, and the Republican Leaders who drafted it must now pay the penalty of their folly. France also will have to suffer, but it is just possible that the very extremity of the dangers will save it from the upheavals and social turmoil that the reactionaries look for as the end of all this unwholesome pandering to the baser cravings of the Democracy. On all grounds it would be regretted were revolutionary passions again to break loose among the more fiery elements in the population; but matters need not come to that pass, bad though they may be, if those now responsible for order are wise in time. There has been too much of the Bourse and its surroundings in their method of government from first to last; but the Bourse has now failed them, and they may, therefore, be the readier to take the of advice M. Ribot, the Reporter to the Budget Committee. Excellent advice it is. In his view the proposed expenditure on public works is altogether excessive and pernicious, and ought to be at once cut down to proportions well within the means of the nation. As every device for raising the necessary funds for next year's extraordinary public works has fallen, as Rentes cannot be issued in the existing position of the market, and as no Paris bank or group of bankers has any money to spare, the Budget Committee and the Ministry itself may be driven to adopt this good counsel. The dream of progress at express speed will have to be abandoned, and the sooner it is so the sooner will France settle down again to quiet work; the sooner, too, will the path be opened for a return to that Free-trade policy which M. Léon Say regards as the only sound commercial policy for his country. Should, however, the advice of M. Ribot be disregarded, the time cannot be far distant when an accumulation of financial difficulties will fall upon the head of the group that now rules France, with what result no one can predict. It may be safely said, however, that a few years of persistence in the course fully entered upon in 1878 can lead only to national bankruptcy.—*Standard.*

THE STATE OF EGYPT.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Thursday:—

The preliminary inquiry began this afternoon with the examination of Ahmed Rifaat, formerly Director of the Native Press Bureau. Some idea of the probable length of the proceedings may be gained by noting the fact that during the afternoon eleven questions were asked by the President. To two of them the reply was the famous "*Non mi ricordo.*" Another produced a long account of a picnic to Kafrdawar of the President of the Court—a fact which no one denied, and which the President only allowed to be narrated because it was personal to himself. The other answers of the ex-official were shifty, only proving that he suppressed some articles, but allowed others tending to excite fanaticism; and that on one occasion he had, under orders from Arabi, refused to obey an order of the Khedive, prior to the bombardment.

A decree reduces the Extraordinary Budget from £540,000 to £385,000. The Dutch traveller Chower is reported by Abd-el-Kader to be safely on his way to Khartoum. The following statistics refer to the whole of the forces now in Cairo, consisting of 8,725 officers and men:—Returns for the first five days of November—New additions to the hospitals, 505; deaths, 15, of which 11 were caused by enteric fever. Second five days in the same month—Admissions—258; deaths, 7, of which five were from enteric fever. Returns for one day (November 15)—Number of patients from previous day, 776; new admissions, 38; discharged as convalescent, or sent home, 144; deaths, 4; total remaining, 666. The sick list shows that 7 per cent. of the infantry, 11 per cent. of the artillery, and 15 per cent. of the cavalry are in the hospitals.

THE HISTORY OF THE CAUCUS.

Materials for the secret history of that great institution, popularly known as "The Birmingham Caucus," are accumulating. Mr. T. Satchell Hopkins has contributed to the *Birmingham Daily Gazette* an elaborate historical essay intended to complete and extend the recent criticisms of Mr. Marriott, M.P.:—

The Birmingham Liberal Association dates from 1867, but the idea of the caucus originated about 1871 among the members of a close club called the Arts Club, with the direct intention of obtaining entire control of the municipal government of the town. How much in the dark they kept themselves is shown by the fact that "for some reasons not quite apparent" the committee then formed kept no record or minutes of its meetings. Making their secret council a wheel within the wheel of the Liberal Association, they presently allied themselves with a certain "Central Nonconformist Committee," consisting of a few Dissenting preachers and local preachers, who, under the secretaryship of Mr. Schnadhorst, had assumed a political character. Thence follows the usual story of a political "ring." For American institutions we must use American words, just as for French importations we must use French words. Of course the system of government has been to make implicit obedience to the dictation of a clique the sole test of fitness for taking any part in the municipal, charitable, educational, and social work of the town. Through the once poorly-paid secretary to a little knot of Nonconformists, now the well-paid secretary of the Liberal Association, the caucus rules Birmingham, and, carried away by its success, aspires to rule England. But the most extraordinary part of the story neither Mr. Marriott, nor Mr. Hopkins, nor certainly Mr. Schnadhorst, has yet told. How is it that a Birmingham Radical elects to be a slave unless it be in the hope that he may in his turn become a well-paid slave driver? And why, unless Birmingham has already reached the lowest depth of political degradation, is a clique with such a history tolerated for a single hour?—*Globe.*

THE SLAVE TRADE IN EGYPT.—Lord Shaftesbury presided on Tuesday over a meeting held at Willis's Rooms, for the purpose of urging the Government to embrace the present opportunity to abolish slavery in Egypt. The speakers included Cardinal Manning, Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P., Sir J. Kennaway, M.P., Sir T. F. Buxton, and the Rev. R. W. Felkin, who, as a missionary, had recently been in the Nile Valley and the Soudan, where, he said, the slave traffic still continued, forty thousand slaves being annually taken over the Egyptian borders. Most of the speakers dwelt on the fact of England's responsibility in the matter, and Mr. Forster said there never has been such an opportunity of striking a blow at slavery, which would be encouraged if action were not now taken by the British Government. "We had interfered so much now in Egypt that there was no excuse for not interfering so much further as to make it better by the suppression of slavery. If we wished 'Egypt for the Egyptians' should start fair, what would do more in that direction than removing and abolishing this incubus of slavery? If that great step in civilization were attained the English people would feel they had got some recompense for their sacrifices in Egypt." Resolutions calling for the suppression of the traffic were adopted.

THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT IN EGYPT.—The general officers lately holding commands in Egypt have all reported, we (the *Standard*) understand, most unfavourably on the work done by the Army Medical Department in Egypt, and their statements fully bear out the charges preferred by our special correspondent. Sir Garnet Wolseley is of opinion that the system will have to undergo considerable modifications, and that to its defects the collapse of the arrangements for the care of the sick and wounded is principally due.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE HOME RULERS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

Mr. R. YORKE gave notice that he will move for a Select Committee to inquire into the circumstances attending the release of Mr. Parnell and the other imprisoned M.P.'s, adding a hope that as the resolution had been submitted to the Prime Minister and received his approval, he would use his influence with his friends to prevent opposition to it, or, if it were opposed, that he would make such arrangements as would remove it from the operation of the 12 30 Rule.

Mr. GLADSTONE was understood to deny that he had approved the Resolution, but he certainly would not oppose it. As to what should be done if others opposed it, it would be better to wait to see whether any notice of opposition were given.

THE MURDER OF PROFESSOR PALMER.

In answer to Mr. W. H. Smith, Mr. Gladstone read a telegram from Colonel Warren, holding out hopes that he would be able shortly to bring in most of the murderers of Professor Palmer, Captain Gill, and Lieutenant Charrington.

THE ARREARS ACT.

In answer to Mr. Dickson, Mr. GLADSTONE said he thought it would be unsatisfactory to the House at this period of the Session to find itself engaged on legislation for the amendment of the Arrears Act, but the Government would do all in its power to prevent the benevolent intentions of the Legislature being frustrated; and he was informed by the Land Commissioners that the business before them would be despatched by the end of the month.

THE NEW LAW COURTS.

In answer to a question from Mr. M'Laren, Mr. SHAW-LEFEVRE announced that the Law Courts will be opened on December 2, and he had every reason to believe that her Majesty would personally perform the ceremony. Accommodation could only be provided for the House of Commons to the number of 150 tickets, including 50 for ladies. The gentlemen would be expected to appear in levée dress (at this there was much laughter), and the ladies in morning dress. Accommodation would be provided as far as possible for the Junior Bar.

RULES OF PROCEDURE.

The House proceeded with the New Rules, and, after Rule 3 had been affirmed without a division, Mr. Gladstone moved the Rule 4, which provides that on a division being challenged the Speaker or Chairman may call on the challengers to rise in their places, and, if they do not exceed 20, may declare his decision without a division.

After several amendments had been disposed of a question was raised which led to a protracted and somewhat confused and technical controversy. It was pointed out that the Resolution conflicted with Resolution 2 inasmuch as it gave the right to ten members to require a division on a motion for adjournment at question time, while this Resolution empowered the Speaker to refuse a division at any time unless 20 members stood up to demand it. Mr. Gladstone, the Attorney-General, and the Solicitor-General denied that there was any conflict, while the contrary was maintained by Lord R. Churchill, Mr. Gorst, and others. Ultimately the Speaker expressed the opinion that the point was open to some doubt, and that it might be as well to put in words which would except Resolution 2 from the operation of Resolution 4. Mr. Gladstone, while intimating that his own conclusion was different, accepted the decision of the Chair, and agreed to insert words, and a further discussion arose as to the best mode of removing the ambiguity. In the middle of it Mr. Warton maintained that the Resolution would also be in conflict with Resolution 1, as it might deprive minorities under 20 of the opportunity of ascertaining whether the majority in favour amounted to the requisite number of 100. But on this point the Speaker held that under Resolution 1 it would not be competent for him to call upon members to rise in their places. Mr. A. O'Connor, as a means of extricating the House from the difficulty, moved the adjournment of the debate, which was seconded by Mr. Biggar, and supported by Mr. Salt, Mr. M'Carthy, and others, and in the course of the discussion Mr. Gibson, on an appeal to the Chair from Mr. Dillwyn, was silenced under the operation of Resolution 3 just agreed to, requiring speakers to an adjournment to confine themselves to the subject matter. The motion was negatived by 120 to 69, and after this an amendment moved by Mr. Parker concerning the Rule to divisions after the order of the day and notices of motion was carried by 85 to 15.

Mr. GORST next moved an amendment requiring that the usual process of clearing the House for a division shall be gone through before members are required to stand up, but this was strongly resisted by the Solicitor-General and Mr. Gladstone, who said he was willing to restrict the rule to dilatory motions, but he objected to giving obstructives the additional opportunity of wasting time. Mr. Sexton ridiculed as puerile the idea of saving a couple of minutes. Lord John Manners, Sir R. Cross, Mr. Sclater-Booth, and others, joined in urging the Government to give way, and Mr. Macfarlane pointed out that the Resolution, if unamended, might be defeated by a "count out." After a discussion of nearly two hours, Lord Hartington intimated that they would accept the amendments of Mr. Gorst, Mr. Buchanan, and Mr. Rylands, so that the Resolution will be confined to motions for adjournment during any debate in the House or in Committee, and that members shall not be directed to stand up until the House has been cleared, and after a lapse of two minutes, as indicated by the sand glass. This gave general satisfaction, and after some verbal amendments had been made, the Resolution was agreed to.

On Resolution 5, which empowers the Speaker to silence a member for continued irrelevance and tedious repetition, Mr. Gibson proposed that the offending member should be warned before being silenced, but on a division this was negatived by 120 to 52, and, after some further discussion, the resolution was agreed to.

The debate was then adjourned.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, THURSDAY.

Yesterday her Majesty, with the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Princess Beatrice, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe, the Dowager Duchess of Ely, Major-General Du Plat, Captain Bigge, Equerries, Colonel Sir John C. M'Neill, V.C., and Major Lane, drove from Windsor Castle through the town in an open carriage drawn by four ponies, preceded by two outriders, to the Cavalry Barracks for the purpose of inspecting the detachment of the 2d Life Guards who have recently returned from Egypt. The men, under the command of Colonel Ewart, were paraded near the right wing of the barracks, and afterwards marched to the riding-school, where they were drawn up and received her Majesty with a Royal Salute, the band of the regiment playing the National Anthem. After inspecting the men, the Queen and Royal party were conducted over the hospital, her Majesty passing through several of the wards and remaining in conversation with some of the sick who had just returned from the war. On leaving the hospital, the Queen inspected the stables, after which the Royal party returned to the Castle.

A deputation of the Town Council of the Borough of Windsor, consisting of the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Mr. J. Devereux, and a number of Councillors, had the honour of presenting the Duke of Connaught, K.G., yesterday afternoon, in the Corridor, with an address of congratulation on the safe return of his Royal Highness from Egypt, her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught being present. Major and the Hon. Mrs. Egerton were in attendance. A torchlight procession, consisting of a detachment of the 2d Life Guards and Windsor Volunteers, took place in the Quadrangle of the Castle last evening, in honour of his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. The procession, headed by the band of the 2d Life Guards and Coldstream Guards entered the Castle at a quarter past 6 o'clock by the Long Walk Gates, and after marching past the Queen and the Royal Family, who witnessed the scene from the Corridor, went through various evolutions, and lit up figures representing the letters A. and V.R. upon the ground in the Quadrangle. Her Majesty's dinner party included the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Princess Beatrice, the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe, the Dowager Marchioness of Ely, the Hon. Mrs. Egerton, Viscount Torrington, Colonel Lord E. Pelham Clinton, Colonel Sir John C. M'Neill, K.C.M.G., V.C., Colonel Sir Howard Elphinstone, K.C.B., V.C., Brigade-Major Herbert, Grenadier Guards, Major Ronald B. Lane, R.A., A.D.C., and Dr. Scott.

The Hon. Mary Pitt and the Hon. Amy Lambart have arrived at the Castle as Maids of Honour in Waiting.

Viscount Torrington, Colonel Lord E. Pelham Clinton, and Major-General Du Plat have arrived as Lord, Groom, and Equerry in Waiting.

Lord Sackville and the Hon. Evelyn Moore have left the Castle.

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, THURSDAY.

The Prince of Wales, attended by Colonel A. Ellis, arrived this evening from Norwich, where his Royal Highness opened the new Agricultural-hall, and visited the Norfolk and Norwich Christmas Show for the year, of which he is president.

The Prince of Wales also attended a meeting of the Prisoners' Aid Society for the county of Norfolk, and moved a resolution.

The Crown Princess of Germany (Princess Royal of Great Britain and Ireland) left Paddington on Thursday evening by the 5.10 p.m. Great Western express *en route* for Windsor, on a visit to the Queen at the Castle.

Baron Mohrenheim, the Russian Ambassador, arrived at Dover on Wednesday from London, and, after staying the night at the Lord Warden Hotel, left on Thursday for Calais.

Musurus Pacha and family have returned to the Turkish Embassy, Bryanston-square, from Bohun-lodge, East Barnet, where they have been spending the autumn.

Mr. Henry A. B. Carter, Hawaiian Minister and Envoy Extraordinary to the French Republic, has left Claridge's Hotel on his retrun to the Sandwich Islands.

Lord Coleridge was decidedly better last night.

Sir Stafford Northcote will leave England either on Wednesday or Thursday next, and will proceed, *via* the Bay of Biscay to the Mediterranean, where he will remain two months, in order to recruit his health.

FREETHINKERS AND FREE THINKERS.

These, says the *St. James's Gazette*, are the thoughts of a Free Thinker on free-thinking:—

Lord Queensberry's attempt to enforce a clôture upon Mr. Tennyson's misrepresentation of the character of "secularist free-thinker and so-called atheist" seems a little hard upon the persons whom it was apparently designed to protect. But this is by reason of a misunderstanding which Lord Queensberry certainly shares, and probably wishes to promulgate, but which I will, if you will allow me, say a few words to dissipate. The name "freethinker" is misleading, and even, if I may say so, rather untradesmanlike. It leads the unwary to suppose that a freethinker is a Free Thinker, whereas he is in truth nothing of the kind. If he were free to think what he pleased he might choose not to be an atheist or a secularist (whatever that may be). He might choose to be even a ritualist, or possibly not to be any sort of -ist at all. Lastly, he might, if he were really free, decide to hold those opinions about marriage which were so artfully expressed by Mr. Herman Vezin that Lord Queensberry's horror and indignation burst out in the inopportune remonstrance which, as he informs the readers of the *Daily Telegraph*, led to his forcible but kindly removal. But since a man holding the opinions of Edgar is not a freethinker, and since Mr. Tennyson's base insinuation that he was had to be disproved even at the cost of the martyrdom of a marquess, it follows that a freethinker may not hold those opinions, and is consequently not free. But there are more limitations upon a freethinker than these. A year or two ago a meeting was held, I believe in St. James's Hall, to express sympathy with Mr. Bradlaugh. Lord Queensberry occupied a place on the platform, and said that he was a fellow-martyr with Mr. Bradlaugh, and was ostracized by the Scotch peers for being a freethinker just as Mr. Bradlaugh was by the Commons. And he went on to say that he believed in the religion of Humanity, and so he felt sure did Mr. Bradlaugh, and that therefore it was very wrong to call them atheists. Whence it must be inferred that a freethinker must not only not be a Christian, a Buddhist, a Mahommedan, a pagan, or an Edgar, but he must be a humanitarian. Now the religion of Humanity is a very positive and a very surprising religion, and I confidently assert that a man who is required to believe it is not free. I have now substantiated the assertion with which I set out, that a freethinker is not a Free Thinker? A Free Thinker must be a thinker who is free. What is a thinker? A person who thinks. Now I take it to be an ascertained physiological fact that, leaving out of account a few idiots of rare and extreme idiocy, everybody thinks. Therefore everybody is a thinker. The question remains, What thinkers are free? Freedom has been defined as the absence of restraint. Now there are some persons who hold that what a person thinks depends entirely upon circumstances, or the environment, or the universe, or the grey matter of his brain, or something else that he did not make and cannot control. This, I am given to understand, is called Necessitarianism. On the other hand, some persons believe that everybody thinks what he pleases; and this theory is called Free Will. I know of no intermediate theory; whence I gather that one of them is true. Now, given Necessitarianism, thought is never free, but is, on the contrary, the product of an infinite number of restraints; and therefore nobody is a Free-thinker. On the other hand, given Free Will, everybody is a Free-thinker. Therefore the great body of Free-thinkers comprises either the whole human race or nobody at all. But it is not at all necessary to be a Free-thinker. If everybody is a Free-thinker, Edgar is one among the rest. If nobody is a Free-thinker, Mr. Tennyson has misrepresented nobody. To accuse the poet of misrepresentation is therefore absurd. Edgar is certainly not a Free-thinker, and certainly not an orthodox Presbyterian. But no one ever said he was either; and I cannot see that Lord Queensberry had any more business to get up and make a disturbance about him than a Scotch elder would have had."

The following is Lord Queensberry's letter to the *Daily Telegraph*, referred to above:—

SIR,—As no doubt an incident that occurred to-night (Tuesday) at the Globe Theatre will find its way into some of the daily papers, I trust that you will allow me to make a few remarks in explanation of what actually took place in reference to myself, as otherwise my motive may be utterly misconstrued not only by those who were present at the time, but by others of the public outside who may hear any report not quite correctly stated of what actually did occur. This evening I went to hear the new piece by Mr. Tennyson as represented at the Globe Theatre, *The Promise of May*. Towards the close of the first act, when the gentleman representing the character of Edgar appeared on the stage I instantly became deeply interested when I perceived the character he, Edgar, had come to represent, or rather as I took it, most grossly to misrepresent. After listening a few minutes to the sentiments expressed by this gentleman freethinker and atheist of Mr. Tennyson's imagination I became so horrified and indignant that, rising in my stall, I simply, in a loud voice, made the following remarks *à propos* of Edgar's comments upon "Marriage": "These are the sentiments that a professing Christian (meaning Mr. Tennyson) has put into the mouth of his imaginary freethinker, and it is not the truth." This is all I said and I sat down. When the curtain fell at the end of the first act, there were several good-natured cries and calls upon myself from different parts of the theatre, to explain myself. I rose, and endeavoured to do so, as I was naturally most anxious that the motives of my interruption should not be misconstrued either by those in the theatre or by the public who might hear of it outside. I was forcibly but kindly removed while endeavouring to explain myself and protesting against Mr. Tennyson's misrepresentations of the sentiments of the secularists and freethinkers and so-called atheists of England. My statement of the facts will, I presume, explain my motives. I am a secularist and a freethinker, and, though I repudiate it, a so-called atheist, and as President of the British Secular Union I protest against Mr. Tennyson's abominable caricature of an individual whom, I presume, he would have us believe represents some body of people, which, thanks to the good of humanity, most certainly does not exist amongst Freethinkers.

—Faithfully yours,

Tuesday Night. QUEENSBERRY.

CURIOUS WILL CASE.—In the Chancery Division on Thursday Mr. Justice Chitty heard the case of "Potts v. Brassey," which raised a curious question upon the construction of the will of Mr. Allnutt, who died in May, 1881. The testator bequeathed the residue of his personal estate to his wife and to his daughter Lady Brassey, jointly for their separate use, adding a recommendation that they should dispose of the same in favour of charitable objects, and at the same time declaring the motive for his recommendation to be that he had amply provided for those two persons and his remaining daughter by other legacies contained in his will. The testator also bequeathed sums of £1,000 to Lady Brassey and to other persons, to enable them to purchase mementos. Lady Brassey had upon her marriage entered into the usual covenant to settle, upon the trusts of her marriage settlement, property (except jewellery, etc.), of the value of £500 and upwards, acquired during coverture, and the question therefore arose whether the two legacies were bound by the covenant. Lady Brassey and her husband, Sir Thomas Brassey, were anxious to carry out the recommendations of the testator with respect to the residuary bequest, which amounted to a very large sum of money. Mr. Ince, Q.C., Mr. Macnaghten, Q.C., Mr. Romer, Q.C., Mr. Hume, Mr. Tucker, Mr. Prior, and Mr. F. C. Norton were the counsel appearing. His Lordship said that the expressions in the will in no way disclosed any intention on the part of the testator to bind the legatees. The two legacies were, notwithstanding the recommendation and wish annexed to them, left to Lady Brassey absolutely, and he must therefore hold that the £1,000, and the half of the residue were bound by the covenant in her marriage settlement, and must be settled upon its trusts.

ECCLESIASTICAL APPOINTMENTS.—The valuable rectory of Eccleston, near Chorley, Lancashire, has been conferred on the Rev. Humphry W. Bretherton, B.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, who was only ordained last year and has been curate of Rochdale. The living is worth £1,355. The *Guardian* says:—The Rev. William Wheeler Aldridge, rural dean for the Deanery of Pawlett: Rev. W. J. Brookes, vicar of Norland—patron, the, Vicar of Halifax; Rev. H. J. Cheales, rural dean of Candlesho, Nos. 1 and 2; Rev. S. Ernest Cornish, curate-in-charge of the Whelley Mission Wigan, curate of Bishop Ryder's, Birmingham, Rev. James Johnson Downes, B.A., Chaplain of Somerset Connty Lunatic Asylum; Rev. Francis Douglas Dymock, M.A., vicar of Englishcombe; Rev. J. A. Fishbourne, rector of Llandyssil; Rev. Canon Haigh, vicar of St. Maurice's, Winchester, vicar of Newport, Isle of Wight—patron, the Bishop of Winchester; Rev. Morgan Hughes, vicar of Betws Ammanford, rector of Derwen; Rev. Canon Long, M.A., vicar of St. Andrew's, Auckland, Archdeacon of Auckland—patron, the Bishop of Durham; Rev. Robert Blake Poole, M.A., assistant inspector of schools for Ilminster District; Rev. J. W. Robinson, M.A., vicar of North Petherton, rural dean of Bridgwater, prebendary of Cudworth in Wells Cathedral—patron, the Bishop; Rev. Ernest Bickersteth Savage, M.A., vicar of Kirk Michael, Isle of Man, vicar of St. Thomas's, Douglas, Isle of Man; Rev. J. Storr, B.A., Principal of the Birkenhead College, licence to officiate generally within the diocese of Chester; Rev. Edward Venables, M.A., senior curate of St. Ann's, Soho, vicar of St. John's, Drury-lane—patron, Sir Walter James; Ven. H. W. Watkins, D.D., Archdeacon of Auckland, Archdeacon and Canon of Durham—patron, the Bishop of Durham; Rev. Charles Alix Wilkinson, M.A., rector of Childerley (to be held with Boxworth, under a faculty from the Archbishop of Canterbury).

FATAL ACCIDENT TO AN OFFICER.—Captain H. E. Nield, of the 45th Regiment, died on Tuesday at Botwell Lodge, Hayes, near Uxbridge, from the effects of an accident with which he met on the 4th inst., whilst driving down Richmond-hill. His horse became unmanageable, and, after scattering some vegetables and fruit displayed in front of a shop, dashed against the plate-glass windows of another shop. The windows were smashed and the frame-work torn away, and the dog-cart turned over in the road. Captain Nield and a lady and gentleman with him were thrown out with great violence. Captain Nield was picked up insensible, suffering from concussion of the brain. The other occupants of the dog-cart were also injured, but not seriously.

MARRIAGE IN THE SALVATION ARMY.—A scene of considerable excitement was witnessed on Wednesday morning at Wycliffe Independent Chapel, Heaton Norris, on the occasion of the wedding of two captains of the Salvation Army, the brides having been stationed in Stockport since the opening of the mission in that town. The chapel was filled to overflowing, and, pending the arrival of the wedding party, Salvation hymns were sung with great heartiness. General Booth performed the ceremony, being accompanied by Majors Pearson and Taylor, and other officers of the Army, and assisted by the Rev. W. A. Blake, minister of the chapel. The bride and bridegroom wore the uniform of the Army, with the exception of the bride's bonnet, which had white satin strings. During the service there were frequent shouts of "Amen," "Hallelujah," with waving of handkerchiefs, and the firing of "volleys."

DOUBTFUL REFORM.—We cannot congratulate the Municipal Reform League upon the way in which they expended a portion of their small balance on Lord Mayor's Day. The little hand-bill so liberally distributed asked the very pertinent question, Why should not the Lord Mayor rule over 4,000,000 of people rather than 50,000? Surely, the answer suggests itself, because he is the representative of local, not imperial government. The question also suggests another important consideration. It proposes to extend the Corporation suddenly, at one blow as it were, from a district of one square mile to a district of about 120, and from ruling over 50,000 people to ruling over 4,000,000. This can scarcely be called gradual, or, as the phrase used to be, bit-by-bit reform; it seems more like extinction by absorption. Of course, there is a blunder even in this little bill, for if the Lord Mayor rules over only 50,000 people, either they must be the wealthiest body of people on the face of the earth, or they must be ground down to the very dust by the awful amount of rates they pay. If these 50,000 people represent the only subjects of the Lord Mayor, on the one hand, they pay income-tax on schedule D on nearly forty millions of annual profits, and, on the other, they pay rates to an amount of about £700,000 a year. In the one case every man, woman, and child must have an income from trade of about £800 per annum; in the other, every head of a family must pay about £70 a year in rates. What wonderful blunderers are these Leaguers, who so desire to be our guides, philosophers, and friends!—*City Press.*

A SUCCESSFUL DANE.—The Copenhagen correspondent of the *St. James's Gazette*, writing on Saturday, says:—It was during that in commercial circles even still well-remembered year, 1857, which in one week included several "black Fridays," that the "Privat Bank" of Copenhagen was founded, and Mr. Tietgen, until then only known as a clever clerk and commercial traveller for a Manchester house, was appointed managing director of the new establishment. Since then 25 years have lapsed. The "Privat Bank" has become one of the leading institutions of Denmark—I may say of Scandinavia—and Mr. Tietgen has created the Great Northern Telegraph Company, has started the Danish "Cunard" service to America, he has created the Danish General Steam Navigation Company, which has now about 70 steamers plying all over the world; he is a director of a dozen other companies, and his King has honoured him with the title of a Privy Councillor and the Cross of a Commander of the Dannebrog, one of the few Continental decorations which as yet have not been vulgarised. It is, therefore, no wonder that a few days ago the anniversary of the foundation of the "Privat Bank" was celebrated almost as a national *fête* day. Mr. Tietgen has his detractors and his crotchets; but he is certainly one of the men who have deserved well not only of his country, but of the world—a rare chance for a man born in a small country like Denmark. On the occasion of this anniversary he received more than 300 telegrams of congratulation from all parts of the world, the signatures including those of many of the leading financiers of Europe.

SUPPOSED BURGLARY BY SOLDIERS AT EASTBOURNE.—On Tuesday one of the shops of Mr. Humphrey, ladies' fancy costume maker, in a leading business thoroughfare in Eastbourne, was broken into, and some valuable articles of ladies' clothing stolen. Mr. Humphrey was disturbed during the night by a noise, and on going into the shop found it in a most disordered state, many of the best articles being thrown about in all directions, as if the burglars had been on the premises for some time. They had, however, got clear off when the proprietor came down stairs. The local police traced the missing articles to the Redoubt Fort barracks, where the Scottish Rifles, Company, had been stationed since their removal to Eastbourne from the Tower of London. Two privates of that regiment named Miller and McClintock were arrested on Wednesday night on a charge of being concerned in the burglary, as the missing articles were found under the boards of their sleeping apartment. The two accused soldiers were out later than usual on the night of the burglary, and the corporal of the company was placed under arrest by the military authorities for not reporting to the officers the absence during Tuesday night of Miller and McClintock.

"TYPES OF BRITISH WEATHER."—The opening meeting of the session of the Meteorological Society was held on Wednesday at the Institution of Civil Engineers, under the presidency of Mr. J. K. Laughton. Eleven new fellows were elected. A paper by the Honourable Ralph Abercromby on "Certain Types of British Weather" was read by the secretary. The author showed that there was a tendency of the weather all over the temperate zone to occur in spells, associated with certain types of pressure distribution. In Great Britain there were at least four persistent types—the southerly, the westerly, the northerly, and the easterly. In spite of much fluctuation, one or other of these types would often continue for weeks together, and tend to recur at the same date every year. The value of the recognition of type-groups was stated to be—first, that they explained many phenomena of weather and many popular prognostics; secondly, that in some cases they enabled forecasts to be issued with greater certainty and for a longer time ahead; thirdly, that by their means statistical results could be corrected by giving the real test of identity of recurrent weather, which no single item, such as heat, cold, rain, etc., could do; and fourthly, that by their means it was possible to treat such geological questions as the influence of changing distribution of land and sea on climate in a more satisfactory manner than by any other method. A paper was also read by Professor E. Douglas Archibald, M.A., on "The Use of Kites for Meteorological Observation."

DISASTERS AT SEA.—A distressing casualty is reported from Burntisland. Several vessels riding in the roads signalled for a pilot, and a boat containing three pilots and two young men put off from the shore. About three-quarters of a mile from the harbour the boat suddenly disappeared. A steam tug at once proceeded to the scene of the disaster, but before it could reach the spot all the men had perished. A smack drove ashore near Portreath yesterday afternoon, and has become a complete wreck. The crew attempted to reach the shore in their boat, but all perished. It is believed that the vessel is laden with coal. She is supposed to be the *Jane and Elizabeth* of Plymouth. With reference to this storm a correpondent telegraphs that in St. Ives Bay the schooner *Susan and Elizabeth*, of Dartmouth, drove ashore on the Western Spit. The crew were rescued by the rocket apparatus. Off St. Ives Island a fearful scene was witnessed. A brig was seen labouring heavily about three miles away. The lifeboat and a pilot put off, but before they could get near the brig, whose nationality is unknown, she foundered with all hands. At St. Issey, near Padstow, the French smack *St. Marthe*, bound for Cardiff, went ashore in a dangerous position.—A telegram received through Reuter's Agency from Penzance, dated Nov. 16, says:—"A terrific gale has been raging since this morning at the entrance of the North Channel. A Dartmouth vessel was wrecked at Hayle this morning, and in attempting her rescue the lifeboat was capsized, the crew having a very narrow escape. Another vessel is ashore near Godrevy Lighthouse."—Early yesterday morning, the German steamer *Nerissa*, from Hamburg, in turning drove athwart of the *Harvest Queen*, a screw collier, lying at anchor off Tilbury Docks. The *Nerissa* was cut down on her port side below the water line, and had to be run ashore just above Tilbury railway station, where she now lies full of water. The damage sustained by the *Harvest Queen* is not known at present.

THE NATIONAL LIBERAL CLUB.—The Earl of Northbrook presided on Thursday afternoon over a large gathering at the Westminster Palace Hotel, for the establishment of the National Liberal Club, which is intended to give club advantages to Liberals in London and to Liberals in the country visiting London. Among the speakers were the Earl of Derby, Lord Monson, the Marquis of Hartington, Sir W. Harcourt, Sir Henry James, Mr. Herbert Gladstone, M.P., Mr. S. Morley, M.P., Mr. Bryce, M.P., Mr. G. W.

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THE ROCK AHEAD IN FRANCE.

A crisis appears to be approaching in the financial affairs of the French Republic. The number of the gloomy prophets at all events increase, and so does the nervousness of the Bourse, which fears it knows not what, which, thanks to its own reckless folly, has no business, and whose only consolation, therefore, is to blame the Government. The administration is so all pervading in France that this is natural. But many who may be presumed to stand outside Bourse influences take the same tone. M. Paul Leroy-Beaulieu, one of the most eminent of French economists, is, if possible, more desponding in his views than the hungriest *coulissier* of the Rue Vivienne, or than the Legitimist who has lost his all in the mad attempt to combat what he calls the Revolution by gambling in bogus stocks and creating mushroom companies. A feeling as if a storm were in the air pervades society in fact, and everybody who thinks at all thinks that affairs will be worse before they are better. Taxes are decreasing in yield, debt is being piled up without thought how it is going to be paid off, and Ministries have apparently bungled so much that no one knows exactly what the deficit is to be. A black catalogue of crimes is indeed being piled up against the Republican Government of France, to the delight of its enemies and all reactionaries, who point to the impending collapse as a proof that the "men of the people" cannot govern. In all this there is a good deal of exaggeration. France is, we believe, in some considerable financial straits, thanks in no small degree to the very men now loudest in predicting the downfall of her present institutions. But the position is a long way from being desperate, or one that wise and firm handling could not retrieve. It has long been obvious that the career upon which the Republic entered at the bidding of M. de Freycinet some four years ago would lead to no financial good in the long run. The pace was too fast for a nation hardly recovered from the effects of a disastrous war and the payment of an unprecedentedly heavy indemnity. There was an element of universal grandmotherly beneficence, too, in the schemes for new roads and railways, for harbour, canal, and river improvements from one end of the country to the other. This was highly dangerous on more grounds than one. It tended to perpetuate the bad habits of the Empire under which the State machine was substituted not merely for providence, but for self-reliance, individual energy, and independence of mind and hand. By these public works the democracy was to be coddled and kept in a state of abundance. They had also an unpleasant look of being aids to the maintenance in power of those who held the purse-strings, a suspicion which may or may not have been justified. Many as the faults of the scheme were, however, and heavy as was the outlay it involved, it is not probable that a deadlock would have been produced by it so soon but for the stock gamblings and collapses of the past two years. These led to a diversion and waste of capital which has brought the French Government into difficulties. On the one hand it sees the taxes becoming less productive, and on the other it finds borrowing nearly an impossibility. The great financial houses upon which it leaned have impoverished themselves or have had their resources withdrawn by their impoverished clients. The last issue of redeemable rentes weighs on the market, never having been taken up to the requisite extent by the small investor, whose means have been dissipated in Bourse gambling. Borrowing is therefore almost impossible, and the Government has been driven to all sorts of shifts to pay its way.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

MR. GLADSTONE'S STATEMENT ON EGYPT.

The *Spectator* considers that the statement made by Mr. Gladstone upon the affairs of Egypt, though simple in form and apparently confined to one subject, was in substance most important. The Government have not decided upon a plan for the permanent administration of Egypt, but they have decided upon their course during the immediate future. They acknowledge the existence of a state of affairs in Egypt most easily, though not quite accurately, described as an "Interregnum," and intend to provide for "order and security" while it lasts, in a very definite way. They cut more knots than the public quite perceives. For a period as yet undetermined, but described as the period during which Egypt will reorganise her army and her Administration, the British Government will not officially consult "Europe," and will ignore Turkey, and will garrison Egypt, under a Convention concluded with the Khedive alone. For a time, therefore, not yet fixed, though intended to be as short as the condition of Egypt will allow, that country is to be occupied and held to order by a regular garrison of 12,000 British soldiers, amenable only to the Government of Great Britain. Turkey may protest, as technically she has an unquestionable right to do, and France may sulk, as, considering her retreat from the expedition, she has no right to do; but so far, the ground is thoroughly cleared. The Power whose army is to be paid during the interregnum must direct the treasury which is to pay. The agent controlling the garrison which is to maintain order must be consulted as to the methods of ensuring order. Those who order an occupation, to be protracted till they are satisfied its continuance is needless, must be made content as to the arrangements which are to replace theirs. In other and plainer words, Lord Dufferin, or his successor, if we are foolish enough to give him one, must during the interregnum be virtually the sole counsellor of the Egyptian Ministry; and must give his counsel with all the authority belonging to the agent of a Government recognised, by written Convention, as for the moment the Paramount Power. We value the *entente cordiale* beyond most Liberals, for we know at how many points throughout the world, and more especially in Asia, French interests are identical with our own; but France cannot be permitted to act in Egypt as if she had assisted in the expedition. She had a splendid opportunity allowed her, Lord Granville stretching complaisance to a dangerous point; and in refusing it, she surrendered the Control. If she is now mortified by the result of her own act, which, as regards the people of France, we do not believe, we deeply regret the mortification of a valuable friend, and would do anything she demands in reason to soothe it away; but it cannot be allowed to arrest, or even greatly delay, the necessary progress of affairs. In plain English, the displeasure of France must be endured, as one of the many evils of a situation which cannot be avoided.

THREATENED MINISTERIAL MEASURES.

The Ministerial measures which are to be accelerated by the aid of the new gagging rule will, in the opinion of the *Saturday Review*, scarcely compensate old-fashioned Liberals for the abolition of freedom of debate. Even with the power of silencing the minority, Mr. Gladstone cannot satisfy in a single Session the thirty urgent wants which he accused his predecessors of neglecting. The principal business of next Session has now been informally announced. The extension of household suffrage to the counties will for sufficient reasons be postponed to the eve of the general election, and probably to the Session of 1885. Two of the Ministerial Bills will provide for the abolition of the ancient system of rural government in England and for the destruction of the Corporation of London. The late Government, against its will, proposed a measure for the establishment of county boards, which were to consist in part of justices representing the petty sessions districts, with the addition of members elected by the boards of guardians. The Bill was introduced in redemption of a promise which had been extorted from Sir Stafford Northcote by a threatened revolt of his county supporters at the instigation of the tenant-farmers. The Bill was in some respects injudiciously framed; and the tenant-farmers, apparently satisfied with the deference of the Government to their wishes, ceased from that time to take any further interest in the question. There is little doubt that the present Ministers will found their system on household suffrage, with the effect of disfranchising, for municipal purposes, the real contributors to the rates. Mr. Gladstone has more than once refused relief from local taxation, on the ground that the ultimate benefit would accrue to landowners, whom he, of course, regards as enemies or outlaws. When the issue relates, not to pecuniary burdens, but to the distribution of administrative power, the claims of a class which will be denounced as aristocratic and privileged will be summarily disregarded. Even if, according to the precedent of poor law administration, justices or representatives elected by landowners are included in the county board, they will, as at boards of guardians, form a permanent and helpless minority. The abolition of the Corporation of London has often been proposed; but no scheme for supplying its place has met with general approval. The City government is one of the happy accidents which is not the less valuable because it could not have been deliberately contrived. The splendour and the hospitality of the Lord Mayor have for two or three generations been dissociated from political power, while they are associated with a model local administration. The Corporation would not have been assailed if it had not been rich, and yet its revenues, distributed over the whole of London, will give no perceptible relief to taxpayers. The City possesses the income of a duke, and it does more good than the most liberal of private capitalists or proprietors. There is no reason to believe that the municipal administration of London will be in the smallest degree improved by the creation of a great and dangerous Democratic municipality.

MORALS ON THE STAGE.—Mr. Hermann Vezin, in a letter to the *Standard* on the reception of Mr. Tennyson's new play, gives it as his opinion that neither orthodox Christian people nor Freethinkers have quite caught Mr. Tennyson's meaning. Mr. Vezin says:—The author does not present Edgar as either a bad man, a weak man, *faiblesse vaut vice*; availing myself of words which have come to me from headquarters, I may say that Edgar is a sybarite, "a cold weakling, a sensualist who justifies his sensualities by the doctrine which he has adopted, and which he adjusts to justify his own wicked acts." He feels passionate remorse for his crime, and this rather puzzles him, because he tries to argue himself into the belief that he only "moved in the iron grooves of destiny," and could not really help himself—he is a "modern pseudo-philosopher;" his moral sense is blunted by his sensationalistic views." Such a man will naturally be condemned by good men of all creeds; but as such men exist, perhaps in larger numbers than most people imagine, a dramatist is justified in putting an Edgar on the stage, so long as he does not hold him up as a model. But, it is said, we do not want moral problems on the stage; the English audience will feel, but they will not think. Why not? If the thing is one which they ought to think about, they surely will, if you give them time. It is a fatal mistake, and a common one, for those who do not form a part of the general public to underrate its intelligence. Had musicians been influenced by the same error we should not now see concerts crowded to hear nothing but classical music. . . . So, also, in time, will plays presenting social and moral problems crowd out dramatic trivialities which amuse for an hour and are then forgotten. Mr. Tennyson, in "The Promise of May," has inserted the thin edge of the wedge, and, as far as can be at present judged, Mrs. Bernard Beere will have no reason to regret the result of this the boldest experiment in the modern drama.

ERYSIPELAS FROM VACCINATION.—The *Times* concludes that in cases of erysipelas at Norwich in infants who had recently been vaccinated, it was not the vaccination that was at fault, but the manner in which it was performed; and the chief lesson to be drawn from the facts is that a point, after it has been once charged with vaccine lymph and put to its intended purpose, should be considered as a "mere waste thing, only fit to be destroyed." Dr. Buchanan proposes to make it a specific instruction to public vaccinators never to use an ivory point a second time; and, no doubt, this instruction, and the publicity which has been given to the Norwich cases, will do much to prevent similar occurrences elsewhere. But the truth is that public vaccinators are very inadequately paid. The scale of their remuneration was fixed at a time when vaccination was regarded as a thing which anybody could do; and the chief idea of an economical department was to find out how little it would be possible to induce doctors to accept. Events have since proved that the operation requires to be conducted with great skill and care, and with the observance of many minute precautions, without which a certain percentage of disasters must occur. That this percentage is so small is exceedingly creditable to public vaccinators generally; but still, as a rule, the quality of work bears some relation to the price which is paid for it.

THE ROYAL REVIEW.

At an early hour on Saturday morning a dense fog, accompanied by keen frost, settled down upon London and its suburbs, and gave rise to disappointing forebodings as to the prospects of the review of troops by the Queen. It was not until nearly eleven o'clock that the atmosphere showed any sign of clearing; but once the fog began to disperse it went off rapidly, and by noon the full rays of the sun were intercepted only by a slight haze. The erection of barriers and stages in the vicinity of the review ground was completed by ten o'clock, by which time spectators had assembled in considerable numbers. Indeed, the task of keeping the approaches to the review ground was by no means easy, even at that early hour. The volunteers, numbering over 5,000, who, together with about an equal number of policemen, were entrusted with keeping the ground from Buckingham Palace to the Horse Guards, took up their positions soon after ten o'clock, while a body of troops who had not been employed in Egypt kept the Horse Guards' Parade clear. Meantime the people poured into St. James's Park in ever increasing numbers, and all the best points of vantage were soon occupied. As the various enclosures and the stands were filled, the surroundings of the review ground presented a very animated appearance: the gay dresses of the ladies, the brilliant uniforms of the troops, and the music of the bands, combining, under the struggling rays of sunshine, to disperse the gloomy anticipations of the morning. A strong contingent of blue-jackets arrived at eleven o'clock, adding further interest and variety to the scene.

The different railway termini at which troops to take part in the review were expected to arrive were early scenes of life and activity. At Victoria, Charing-cross, and Battersea crowds assembled and gave a hearty welcome to the soldiers as they arrived—in most cases the trains being delayed by the fog—and the welcome lost none of its vigour as the soldiers marched through the streets, which were lined with spectators. The neighbourhood of Birdcage-walk, in which is situated the Wellington Barracks—the home of the Household troops—was also thronged during the morning by spectators anxious to witness the arrival of the various regiments which were to rendezvous there before marching to the review-ground. The roadway was well kept by a strong contingent of the Metropolitan Police, and as regimnnt after regiment passed along, the cheering of the crowd was most enthusiastic, and the scene one of the most inspiriting character. Special interest seemed to centre in the Field Artillery, who, with their light guns, were in splendid condition; and when the Army Hospital Corps with ambulances, all bearing the Geneva Cross, passed along the walk, enthusiasm was at its height. Other well-known regiments also came in for their share of applause, and by eleven o'clock the enclosure in front of the barracks was filled with troops, who shortly afterwards began to file away for the review-ground to the stirring music of their various bands. Those of the Guards who had not, to their disappointment, been sent to Egypt were paraded early in order to line the route between Buckingham Palace and the Horse Guards, and all the troops looked in splendid condition. Soon after eleven o'clock the Indian Contingent drove up in omnibuses to the Storey's Gate entrance to the park under the command of Major Pennington. A large crowd had assembled at this point, and cheered the Indian soldiers enthusiastically. The latter were in full uniform; the novelty and variety of the costume was the subject of much comment, and not a little admiration. They formed up within the gates of the park, and at once marched to the parade-ground; but most of the other troops entered the park by way of Buckingham-gate. The decorations in Parliament-street, Great George-street, and other places in the locality, were simple but effective, and the most conspicuous, perhaps, were those at the town house of Lord Clarendon, facing the Horse Guards. The front was almost covered with flags and bunting; high up was the word "Egypt," on either side "Tel-el-Kebir" and "Kassassin," and in large letters along the whole front on crimson cloth "God Save the Queen." Sir Garnet Wolseley arrived on the ground at half-past eleven and rode round the square with his staff, being recognised by few until he occupied the spot allotted to army officials, when he was loudly cheered. After giving directions to the orderlies keeping the ground, the General rode through the Horse Guards' Gate to meet the Seaforth Highlanders, who, with arms at the slope and band playing Scottish airs, entered the Parade amid loud cheers. By noon all the force—over 8,000 men—had assembled and taken up their allotted positions.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh, the Dowager Marchioness of Ely, Major-General Du Plat, and Captain Bigge, the equerries being mounted and in full military uniform, left Windsor Castle soon after ten o'clock. They drove to the Windsor station of the Great Western Railway, where they were conducted to the saloon of the special train placed near the waiting-room. Her Majesty carried a handsome bouquet of flowers. Although the air was extremely foggy and very cold, a number of spectators assembled near the terminus to see the Queen and Princess leave. The royal party left Windsor at eighteen minutes past ten, and travelled by way of West Drayton and Ealing to Paddington. In London it was feared that the Queen's train would be delayed by the fog: but the excellent arrangements made by the railway officials obviated all difficulties. Everything had been done to ensure safety and punctuality, and the train, which had been preceded by a pilot-engine, steamed into Paddington Station exactly at five minutes to eleven. On alighting the Queen was received by the railway officials and escorted to her carriage, a detachment of the Horse Guards, under Lieut. Harter, forming a guard. The royal party drove at once to Buckingham Palace, amid the ringing cheers of the large crowd that had assembled outside the station and all along the route. Her Majesty, who was looking exceedingly well, wore thick wraps. The public were strictly excluded from the station precincts. Soon after her Majesty had arrived at the Palace the Prince of Wales and other members of the royal family drove up and showed themselves from the balcony, where they were joined by the Princess of Wales, the Princess Royal of Germany, and the Dukes of Cambridge, Edinburgh, and Albany. On the Queen coming out on the balcony the brigade of Guards marched into the square and saluted, her Majesty bowing acknowledgments. At a quarter to one the Queen left the palace in an open carriage accompanied by the Prince of Wales, who was on horseback, and preceded by an escort of the Guards. The other members of the royal family followed in open carriages. Her Majesty wore a black bonnet and cloak, with fur, and the Princesses were plainly but warmly attired. Outside the palace gates Sir Garnet Wolseley and Generals Hamley, Willis, and Macpherson were drawn up with staff in rear.

The Queen having left Buckingham Palace, the band of each regiment struck up the National Anthem as she passed it on her way down the Mall to the Horse Guards' Parade; the colours were lowered and arms presented. At ten minutes to one o'clock the Queen, whose carriage had proceeded at a walk along the Mall, entered upon the Horse Guards' Parade, and was greeted with tumultuous cheering, which did not cease until she had driven round the ground and taken up a position at the saluting-flag, which was in the centre of the ground. Her Majesty's carriage having drawn up, the carriage conveying the Princess of Wales and Princess Beatrice drove past the Queen and took up a post in front of the Queen's carriage, that conveying the Duchess of Edinburgh and her children being immediately behind. The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge took post on the right hand, the Duke of Edinburgh, who wore naval uniform, taking his position with several of the naval officers in the rear of the royal carriage. Sir Garnet Wolseley, who had moved with his staff to the head of the line of troops then gave the order to march past. By this time there was a remarkable change in the weather. Just before the Queen reached the Horse Guards' Parade the fog became more dense, and it seemed as if the march-past was to take place under most unfavourable conditions. But as the Queen entered on the parade-ground the sun burst out brightly, and the fog was quickly dispersed, the effect with the troops and the crowds of spectators being thus suddenly revealed being very fine. About one o'clock the march-past commenced, and Sir Garnet Wolseley, received with enthusiastic cheering and the combined bands of the Life Guards playing "See the Conquering Hero Comes," rode along and rendered his salute, wheeling to the right when he had passed; and taking post with the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge beside the Queen. The Headquarter Staff of the Expeditionary Force, Lieutenant-General Willis and Staff of the First Division, Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Hamley and Staff of the 2nd Division, Major General Sir Herbert Macpherson and Staff of Indian contingent then passed, and were followed by the Naval Brigade. Loud and long was the cheering as this fine body of strong serviceable-looking men went past. The Cavalry Brigade, led by Major-General Drury-Lowe, now moved past, a Horse Artillery battery in front, the 1st Life Guards, Royal Horse Guards (Blue), the 2nd Life Guards, and the 4th Dragoon Guards following. These were succeeded by the Royal Artillery, the Royal Marine Artillery, and the Royal Engineers. There was now eager excitement among the spectators to see the Duke of Connaught and his brigade of Guards. As these approached, the cheering was tremendous, and hats and handkerchiefs were waved everywhere. As the Duke rendered his salute the Queen rose in her carriage, the Duchess of Connaught waved her handkerchief, and the cheering by the spectators was even more enthusiastic than before. The Grenadiers, Scots Guards, and Coldstreams having passed, the popular enthusiasm again found vent in hearty cheering as the Indian contingent appeared; and their progress past the saluting base was watched with much interest. Amid cries of "Bravo, Marines!" and renewed cheering, the Royal Marine Light Infantry, the strongest corps on the ground (900 men), marched past in eight companies. Then came Sir Evelyn Wood, who was singled out for special honour in the way of cheering, at the head of the Infantry Brigade which was composed of the 1st Battalion Manchester Regiment, the 1st Battalion Seaforth Highlanders (the large number of medals the men of this regiment wore was the subject of general remark), and the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers. The Ordnance Store, Army Hospital, Army Signalling, and Post Office Corps, the Military Police, and a detachment of the Royal Malta Fencible Artillery then passed in rapid succession, and the review was over.

Before leaving the ground the Queen entered into conversation for a few minutes with Sir Garnet Wolseley, and, it was understood, congratulated him on the appearance of the troops she had just inspected. The Queen then drove off to Buckingham Palace, followed by the other members of the Royal family, Sir Garnet Wolseley, the Staff, and general officers. As the march-past proceeded, the troops moved along the east side of St. James's Park into the Birdcage-walk, maintaining as broad a front as possible, until reaching the Wellington Barracks, where they marched in column of route through the streets which have already been mentioned. These were lined with crowds of spectators, and as the troops passed along the route, which was kept by volunteers and police, the enthusiasm seemed to know no bounds.

HONOURS AND PROMOTIONS FOR THE EGYPTIAN CAMPAIGN.

A supplement to the *Gazette* was published on Friday evening containing a long list of promotions and appointments which her Majesty has made in consequence of the recent operations in Egypt. Her Majesty has also allowed a large number of officers to wear the Orders which the Khedive conferred upon them. The following are some of the principal announcements:—

THE ORDER OF THE BATH.

To be an Ordinary Member of the Military Division of the First Class, or Knights Grand Cross:—Lieutenant-General Sir John Miller Adye, K.C.B., Royal Artillery. To be Ordinary Members of the Military Division of the Second Class, or Knights Commanders:—

Vice-Admiral William Montagu Dowell, C.B.

Lieutenant-General George Harry Smith Willis, C.B.

Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Bruce Hamley, K.C.M.G., C.B., Royal Artillery.

Rear-Admiral Anthony Hiley Hoskins, C.B.

Commissary-General Edward Morris, B.B., Commissariat and Transport Staff.

Major-General Gerald Graham, C.B., V.C., Royal Engineers.

To be Extra Members of the Military Division of the Second Class, or Knights Commanders:—

Major-General Drury Curzon Drury Lowe, C.B.

Colonel Charles Butler Peter Nugent Hodges Nugent, C.B., Royal Engineers.

Colonel Oriel Viveash Tanner, C.B., Bombay Staff Corps.

Colonel Sir Baker Creed Russell, K.C.M.G., C.B., 13th Hussars.

Deputy Surgeon-General James Arthur Hanbury, M.B., C.B., Army Medical Department.

Colonel Cromer Ashburnham, C.B., the King's Royal Rifle Corps.

To be ordinary Members of the Military Division of the Third Class, or Companions:—

Major-General his Royal Highness Arthur William Patrick Albert, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, K.G., K.T., K.P., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G.

Major-General William Earle, C.S.I.

Captain Robert O'Brien Fitzroy, Royal Navy.

Colonel Philip Smith, Grenadier Guards.

Captain Harry Holdsworth Rawson, Royal Navy.

Colonel Henry Clement Wilkinson, Half-pay.

Colonel William Howley Goodenough, R.A.

Colonel James Harwood Rocke, Half-pay.

Colonel Henry Peter Ewart, 2nd Life Guards.

Colonel Robert Rollo Gillespie, Half-pay.

Captain Alexander Plantagenet Hastings, Royal Navy.

Deputy Surgeon-General Colvin Smith, M.D., Madras M.S.

Deputy Commissary-General of Ordnance Horatio Albert Russell, Ordnance Store Department.

Colonel Godfrey James Wigram, Coldstream Guards.

Colonel George William Knox, Scots Guards.

Colonel the Hon. Paul Sanford Methuen, Scots Guards.

Colonel Philip Alexander Anstruther Twynam, Half-pay.

Colonel Charles Frederick Gregorie, Half-pay.

Colonel James Browne, C.S.I., Royal Engineers.

Colonel Thomas Rennie Stevenson, Princess Victoria's (Royal Irish Fusiliers.)

Colonel John Mervin Cutcliffe Drake, Royal Engineers.

Deputy-Surgeon General James Ekin, M.B., Army Medical Department.

Colonel Hans Garrett Moore, V.C., Princess Louise's (Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders.)

Colonel Henry Robert Brown Worsley, Bengal Staff Corps.

Surgeon-Major John Henry Beath, M.D., Army Medical Department.

Deputy Commissary-General Wellesley G. W. Robinson, Commissariat and Transport Staff.

Colonel Howard Sutton Jones, Royal Marines.

Colonel Henry Brasnell Tuson, Royal Marine Artillery.

Colonel Herbert Stewart, 3rd Dragoon Guards.

Assistant-Commissary-General John Henry Randall, Commissariat and Transport Staff.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Leith, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

Lieutenant-Colonel James Galloway, Bombay Staff Corps.

Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Edward Edwards Wilson, the York and Lancaster Regiment.

Inspector of Machinery James Roffey, Royal Navy.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilhelm Luckhardt, Bombay Staff Corps.

Lieutenant-Colonel James James Makgill Heriot Maitland, Royal Engineers.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Edmund Webber, Royal Engineers.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Stewart Richardson, the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Edward Nairne, Royal Artillery.

Lieutenant-Colonel Brymer Francis Schreiber, Royal Artillery.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Upperton, Bengal Staff Corps.

Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel James Graham, Royal Marines.

Lieutenant-Colonel Denzil Hammill, The Gordon Highlanders.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Hayter, Madras Staff Corps.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Hay Macnaughten, Bengal Cavalry.

Lieutenant-Colonel Montagu Gilbert Gerard, Bengal Staff Corps.

Lieutenant-Colonel Colin Campbell, 7th Dragoon Guards.

Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Colthurst Elton, Royal Artillery.

Lieutenant-Colonel Turner Van Straubanzee, Royal Artillery.

Lieutenant-Colonel Abel Straghan, the Highland Light Infantry.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kendal Josiah William Coghill, 19th Hussars.

Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Chas. Keyser, the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

Lieutenant-Colonel William Godeffroy Brancker, Royal Artillery.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Morritt Barneby Walton, Royal Artillery.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Bruce Tulloch, the Welsh Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel Geo. Wm. Borradaile, Royal Artillery.

To be Extra Members of the Military Division of the Third Class, or Companions:—

Lieutenant-Colonel Alex. Brooke Morgan, Half-pay.

Lieutenant-Colonel Leopold Victor Swaine, the Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own).

Inspecting Veterinary Surgeon James J. Meyrick, Veterinary Department.

Fleet-Surgeon Ingham Hanbury, Royal Navy.

Memorandum.—Col. Joseph Noble Beasley, Princess Victoria's (Royal Irish Fusiliers), would have been recommended to her Majesty for the dignity of Companion of the Order of the Bath, had he survived.

THE STAR OF INDIA.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to nominate and appoint—

Rear-Admiral Sir William Nathan Wrighte Hewett, K.C.B., V.C., Commander-in-Chief on the East India Station, lately serving in Egypt,

To be a Knight Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India; and Major-General Sir Herbert Taylor Macpherson, K.C.B., V.C., Bengal Staff Corps, lately commanding her Majesty's Indian Force in Egypt,

To be an Extra Knight Commander of the said Order.

IRELAND.

The *Saturday Review* says:—The attempt upon Mr. Justice Lawson's life, the trial of the persons accused of the Maamtrasna murder, the silly accusation brought against Sir Garnet Wolseley by the *Freeman's Journal*, the Report of the Commissioners, and the revival of bickering in the House of Commons about the Kilmainham Treaty, have combined during the last few days to revive an interest in Irish affairs:—

It may seem at first sight unusual to rank a piece of spiteful newspaper tattle with one of the most hideous crimes on record, and with an apparent attempt to commit another crime, which, had it been completed, would have ranked among recent events only second in audacity and heinousness to the murder of Lord Frederick Cavendish. But, in fact, the three things class themselves very well together as evidences of the spirit prevailing in that part of the Irish people which devotees of Mr. Gladstone expect to tame and conciliate with Arrears Bills and county boards. However different it may be in degree and manner of manifestation, the idle malignity which seeks to charge a distinguished Irishman with an improbable and unbecoming gasconade because he has just successfully commanded an English army, is not so very far removed in kind from the darker and more desperate hatred which led to the Maamtrasna butchery, and to the attempt on the life of a judge who has simply done his duty. Superficial politicians may exclaim at the comparison; men of sense will agree without much difficulty as to the resemblance. It is this spirit, in whatever form, darker or lighter, it may be manifested, with which English government of Ireland has to deal, and that government will be successful or unsuccessful accordingly as it recognises or ignores the fact. Recently it has recognised it, and it is to be hoped, and from the course of the trial up to the present time believed, that the Maamtrasna murderers will be made to pay a signal penalty. But it is not so long since it ignored it completely. It is known that but for the orders which went forth last May establishing Dublin as a fool's paradise by the grace of Mr. Gladstone, Lord Frederick Cavendish and Mr. Burke would have been as efficiently protected as Mr. Justice Lawson. The contrast is instructive enough, and fortunately it is one of improvement, not of change for the worse. Efficiently protected in person, and properly supported by the House of Commons in the matter of his dealings with Mr. Gray, Mr. Justice Lawson will, let it be hoped, leave a name which will be as much an example in history of the right way to deal with Ireland as that of Mr. Forster's ill-fated successor will be an example of the wrong.

THE VICAR'S RATE AT COVENTRY.—A meeting of the vestrymen of the parish of Holy Trinity, Coventry, was held on Friday under the presidency of the vicar, the Rev. F. M. Beaumont, to take into consideration the desirability of obtaining an Act of Parliament in the ensuing session for the abolition of the vicar's rate, and providing for the future maintenance of the vicar by a stipend of £500 per annum payable as a first charge out of the rents of the church estate, in lieu of the income now derived from the assessment from time to time made. The mayor's fund now amounts to £3,864, and it is more than probable that a fresh impetus will be given to the fund, and that the whole of the sum required will be speedily raised.

ELECTION NEWS.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

The following letter has been received by Professor Stuart with reference to Cambridge University election:—"St. Mary's Vicarage, Nottingham, November 16, 1882.—Dear Professor Stuart,—I rejoice at the prospect of our University being represented in Parliament, as it ought to be, by one of its best, most able, most distinguished, and most practical sons. In expressing thus my hearty desire for your return, I venture also to suggest that in the present state of Church politics you should definitely inform the electors what, indeed, I have no doubt of, but what many of them will desire to hear from yourself, whether you are prepared to support the existing connection between the Church of England and the State, and to vote against any proposal to sever them.—I am, dear Professor Stuart, yours very truly, FRANCIS MORSE." Professor Stuart's reply is as follows:—"Cambridge, Nov. 17, 1882.—Dear Canon Morse,—You are perfectly right as to what my views are and what my action would be.—Yours faithfully, JAMES STUART." According to the last University Calendar the number of members of the Senate is 6,138. Members of the Senate may either vote in person, or by proxy duly appointed.

The writ for Preston arrived in the borough on Friday, when the Mayor fixed Tuesday next for the nomination and Thursday for the polling.

Mr. W. H. Grenfell and Mr. Coleridge J. Kennard were nominated on Friday for Salisbury. The Postmaster-General addressed a large meeting of Liberals in support of Mr. Grenfell. The election contest, he said, in which they were engaged was, to say the least, an unusual one, for it very seldom happened that when a member sought re-election on taking office under the Government he was opposed, unless it were that in taking office he had sacrificed some pledge, or that he had obtained it by resorting to some unworthy means. Neither of these charges could for one moment be brought against Mr. Grenfell, whose action during the time he had been in the House of Commons had been both independent and straightforward. Referring to certain charges which Mr. Kennard had made against the administration of the Post Office Savings Banks, Mr. Fawcett said there never was a time when the Post Office Savings Banks were in a more satisfactory condition, and when their business was more rapidly developing. The amount of deposits was now more than £39,000,000, and was increasing at the rate of more than £3,000,000 a year. The number of depositors was increasing at the rate of more than 400,000 a year.

The Bridport Conservative Association has decided to invite Lord Lamington and his son, the Hon. Cochrane-Baillie, to visit that town on the 29th or 30th of this month, in order that the latter may be introduced as the Conservative candidate in the room of Mr. Warton.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Owing to the fog on Saturday morning, which was especially dense at about eleven o'clock, an accident happened on the North London Railway, on the City side of Shoreditch Station. This station is about three-quarters of a mile from Broad-street, and by some mischance a Great Northern train got on the Blackwall metals. The Blackwall train of the North London being stationary at the time, the Great Northern train ran into it with great velocity. So great was the shock that the engine and tender of the Great Northern train were completely wrecked, as was also the guard's brake of the North London train. Happily, the guard was out of the brake, or he must have been killed on the spot, and the engine-driver and stoker escaped as if by a miracle. The guard's brake was completely wrecked, as was also the engine and tender. Happily no lives were lost so far as can at present be ascertained. Great delay and inconvenience was occasioned, and passengers to Broad-street by other trains were greatly alarmed, owing to the block. The superintendent of the line was soon on the spot with a strong gang of workmen, and it is hoped that the line will be cleared in a short time. At about the same time a goods train ran off the line at Hackney, and blocked one line of rails, this accident also being fortunately unattended by fatal results. The traffic between Broad-street and Blackwall had then to be conducted on one line of rails, and as there was a double block, at Shoreditch and at Hackney, trains were able to run only at long intervals, and the company ceased taking passengers from Hackney and other stations. At half-past one the line was still encumbered by the goods waggons, but every exertion was being made to clear it. A collision occurred late on Friday night on the Midland Railway. Thomas Rawlinson, driver of a special goods train from Wellingborough, was oiling his engine on a siding, and waiting orders, when the pointsman by mistake shunted another goods train into the siding upon him. Rawlinson sustained injuries necessitating the amputation of one leg. Two carriages were smashed, and the line considerably damaged. Fortunately no one but the driver was injured.

BALFE: HIS LIFE AND WORK (1).

The publication of Mr. Barrett's work falls opportunely. Public interest in Balfe has been greatly revived by the recent monumental tribute paid to his memory in Westminster Abbey and the accompanying celebration. Whatever triumphs may be yet in store for English opera, we doubt if any productions of this order which the future may have in reserve for us will enjoy a more stable popularity than the *Bohemian Girl*, whose melodies have long since become English national music. But although this delightful composer has done so much to popularise opera in England, through some strange oversight many years elapsed after his death before a satisfactory record of his life was added to biographical literature. The honour of rendering this justice to Balfe belongs to M. Barrett, who, as musical critic for the *Morning Post*, has fully proved his right and his ability to speak on such a subject. The book is written in an easy, attractive style, so that the reader's interest is never allowed to flag. It is, moreover, full of those bright anecdotical touches, which go so far to make a work of this kind successful, simply from the light thus thrown on human character. As an illustration of Mr. Barrett's pleasing style, we select a passage at random from the description of Balfe's first meeting with Rossini as guest of Cherubini in the Rue Poissonnière:—"After dinner Balfe was invited to sing. Cherubini chose some duets written by his illustrious guest, and Madame Rossini joined her voice with that of the aspirant for fame, Rossini accompanying and Cherubini listening with critical admiration. . ." Rossini was charmed with the sweetness and flexibility of Balfe's voice, and above all with the artistic spirit and intelligence of his rendering. When in the course of the evening Balfe had gathered together some of his old saucy spirit and sat to the piano and accompanied himself in the song, "Largo al factotum," from *Il Barbiere*, Rossini was delighted. At the same time he told Balfe that he was sorry that he had heard him perform that task, "inasmuch as," said the composer good-humouredly, "until this time I had imagined that no one in the world could do that but myself." We should add that Mr. Barrett's work is enriched with several portraits of musical celebrities, including an excellent likeness of Balfe himself as frontispiece.

(1) By WM. ALEXANDER BARRETT. London: Remington and Co.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 19—20, 1882.

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY ELECTION.

The candidature of Professor Stuart for the representation of the University of Cambridge will be regarded as a sign of academical vigour. It is true that such candidatures have not been wanting. At the sister University Professor Smith, a very distinguished man, was induced to make the attempt, but he polled little more than a third of the number given to Talbot, the Conservative candidate. What may be called the initial and local difficulties are considerable in such a case. A professor has for his rivals in University esteem every other professor, every other University officer of any importance, every academic layman or clergyman, the latter always jealous in the matter of University representation, under a vague idea that it has to do with the loss of Convocational privileges. It is evident that Mr. Stuart's friends will do best to sink his professorial dignity, and insist more on the great work he has done in bringing the Universities into closer relation with the educated classes of England. To him we are chiefly indebted for the scheme of local lectures and examinations, which in fact make every town a college, and affiliate many centres, each entitled, in some sense, to the rank of a provincial university. By every test that is applicable in so short a time, the scheme has proved a great success. It has elicited great efforts, revealed a vast amount of talent and industry, and detected a good deal of imposition practised by incompetent teachers. It has brought out the great deficiency of means and appliances for the prosecution of special studies; such as the want of good libraries. The old, familiar type of the undergraduate or the candidate for orders, who reads up to the morning of his examination and never opens a book again, is reproduced, almost by necessity, in many a willing and ambitious student whose lot is cast in desolate places. But for this very reason one could wish to see Professor Stuart in a larger sphere and better able to carry out what he has well begun. At this moment education is the greatest question of the day. Every indication points to the approaching time when the many will rule with a power and perhaps a unanimity unknown to all former states of our national development. There is no hold upon millions except the appeal to their right reason, their healthy sentiment, and their sound information. If all classes are not well instructed and well trained by the end of this century, then woe to the British constitution of our fond idolatry. For the public weal, for our very existence as a nation, apart from any lesser considerations, it is most desirable that the interests of education should be well represented in Parliament. But then comes a question which the Universities appear to have answered almost uniformly one way, and that not the way contemplated by Mr. Stuart's supporters. What constitutes a representative in the eye of Parliament and the people? The representative has just sufficient connection with the class he represents, and just sufficient knowledge of its requirements, and sympathy with them, to advocate the cause of his clients in due subordination to the common good. Nowhere is the mere member of a class so little in favour and so powerless as in the House of Commons. Members of Parliament are properly a distinct profession. They are middle men and negotiators between all the other classes. Many, indeed, are landowners, manufacturers, or merchants, but they find that they have to move out of their shell, as their particular status may be described, if they are to have any influence. The representative, in fact, represents his constituents as a whole, and in their entire capacity. The members of the University at large, whether at Oxford or at Cambridge, are, for the most part, men of weight and character, with varied culture and large, often conflicting, interests. If experience is to give any cue to the probable choice, it will be founded on a very ordinary calculation, the calculation, indeed, most to be trusted in all human affairs. What a University would really like both for its Chancellor and for its representatives does not take many words to tell. It wants what is not easy to find always. A Mæcenas, of a good Etrurian family and from an old Lydian dynasty, is the very man to preside over a University, to keep open house for a crowd of academic visitors, and to maintain good relations between literature and power. The representative should partake of these qualities and recommendations as far as can be expected from men with less means and opportunities, and having to make up for the want with debating power. But a simple glance at the members of the two Universities for half a century will show that the solid recommendations of a good social position, and of political influence, have preponderated in the elections. It is true that the storms of controversy, not to say of passion, have now and then shaken even the University members out of their seats, but their places have been filled not by the representatives of any branch of learning, but by the men that wealthy cities and aristocratic counties delight and even compete to honour.—*Times.*

ARABI AND THE ALEXANDRIA MASSACRE.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Sunday:—

I have examined the entire *dossier* relating to the events of the 12th of July and to the participation of Arabi Pacha therein. I confess to feeling some surprise at the generally trustworthy appearance of the evidence. I was prepared to find accumulated the assertions of persons who had heard Arabi give orders for acts of incendiarism. Such assertions would have been suspicious, as denoting that the givers of the evidence had been influenced by a desire to save themselves. The absence of it, the very incompleteness of the chain, together with slight but immaterial variations on some points, and the general concurrence in the main facts, carry far deeper conviction than a more uniform story would.

The evidence may be divided into three heads—before, during, and after the 12th. The first noticeable point is that long prior to the bombardment, Arabi's chief supporters openly declared their intention of leaving Alexandria in ruins if they were defeated; while during the few days preceding the bombardment every native was publicly warned to leave the town, because it would be burnt, by order of Arabi. Of proof that Arabi gave such an order there is none; but there is ample proof that every native resident in Alexandria believed that the town would be fired by his order. I have not found a single Arab, whether partisan or opponent to Arabi, or indifferent, who did not share this belief. If, then, Arabi did not hear these orders publicly given in his name in the streets, he would seem to have been the one man ignorant of them; and if he did hear them so given he at least took no pains to contradict them. Again, about the end of June, the curiosity of all the residents, myself among the number, was excited by seeing heavily-laden closed carts passing through the city all night, carefully guarded by soldiers. While trying to ascertain the contents of these carts I was several times roughly threatened, and could only assume the freight to be ammunition. Now, one witness, Datif Dedros, states that during that time large quantities of petroleum were brought into the town at night, and proves that he made this statement prior to the bombardment. The carts were military ones, the guards soldiers; could the Minister of War be ignorant of the fact?

As regards the events themselves, the absolutely trustworthy testimony of such Europeans as the manager of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, and, in fact, of all the Europeans who remained, shows that the fire was no work of an excited mob, but that regiments were marched down in perfect order from the Rosetta Gate, stationed in line, each street being assigned to a regiment, orders regularly given by signal to commence the work of pillage, subsequently to burn, and finally to retire, "as regularly," says one witness, "as if going out to battle." Arabi is not stated to have been in the street fired and pillaged, though Suleiman Sami, Mahmoud Sami, and Toulba undoubtedly were. But it is proved that Arabi slept in Suleiman's room on the previous night; that Suleiman went straight from Arabi's presence, and led his regiment into the square; that Arabi was at the Rosetta Gate, within a mile of the fires, in the interval during which the fires were kindled; that he met Suleiman while the town was still burning, that they left together, and remained the closest of friends until Tel-el-Kebir. The facts may, I think, be considered to have been proved. Worthless as much of the other evidence may be, it is impossible to attach no force to the naive remark of nearly every witness, whether himself a suspect or not, "How could it have been done without Arabi's orders?" Evidence very positive in character, but resting only on a native statement, says that on two occasions Arabi was asked to interfere, and refused. Similar evidence given by the officer put in charge of the tribunals states that, having been ordered by Suleiman to fire the building, he was questioned by Arabi as to whether he had done so, and, replying falsely in the affirmative, Arabi expressed his satisfaction. The same witness asserts, further, that Suleiman recounted to Arabi, in his dahabeah, all that he had done, receiving no reproof; and that next day Arabi met Mahmoud Fehmi and another person specially to inquire the result of what had been done, and was told by Fehmi that the fire was in every quarter of the town, to which he replied nothing.

It is, however, Arabi's own testimony which most effectually convicts him. Had he given any account, however improbable, which did not contradict substantial facts, charity would have given him the benefit of the doubt; but his replies are lies, gross and palpable, and as childish as Nedim's. The pillage, he says, was done by Bedouins, and not by soldiers; the firing of the town was caused by the shells, and not by incendiaries. Such assertions require no contradiction. Menshawi, who, although a partisan of Arabi, redeemed every fault by his noble conduct in saving hundreds of Europeans at Tantah, states that no sooner had he returned to his village than Toulba summoned him to Kafr-dawar and reproached him for his conduct in his own and Arabi's name.

The hospital returns for the 17th and 18th are as follows:—Fresh entries, 104; discharged, 37, deaths, 5; remaining in hospital 752.

THE MURDERERS OF THE JOYCE FAMILY.

Three members of the gang which murdered the Joyces at Maamtrasna have now been convicted and sentenced to death. This concludes the series of individual indictments, and the five remaining prisoners will be tried together. Two have been allowed to turn Queen's evidence, and thus all the ten men arrested are accounted for:—

The contention on the part of the Crown is that the three convicts already tried did the actual work of slaughter, and that the five upon whom a jury has not yet pronounced stood outside the house to prevent the inmates from escaping. It is needless to say that, should this theory be supported by the evidence, all eight will be, in the view of the law, equally guilty of murder. An additional element of horror was imparted, if that be possible, to the trial of Myles Joyce on Saturday. It was already known that most of the prisoners, as well as all the victims, bore the name of Joyce. But in a district so thickly inhabited with Joyces as to have earned the name of Joyceland no particular significance was attached to the fact. It came out, however, in the course of Saturday's proceedings that Joyce, the head of the murdered family, Myles Joyce, the prisoner, and Antony Joyce, the principal witness to identity, were all first cousins. Whence it followed that, as Mr. Justice Barry put it, either Myles Joyce murdered his cousins for no motive that has yet been discovered, or Antony Joyce, unless it is to be supposed that he did not know his relative and neighbour by sight, was swearing falsely in order to get his own cousin hanged. The jury adopted the first part of this strangely terrible alternative, and they could scarcely have done otherwise. But the question of motive is left where it was, neither side being concerned to prove why the crime was committed. The obvious and probably the correct conclusion is that the prisoner and his accomplices were acting under authority, and obeying the orders of some society. It is said that the slaughtered family was suspected of giving information against the murderers of Lord Ardilaun's bailiffs. Further light may perhaps be thrown upon this point at the approaching arraignment of the men suspected of the latter offence.—*Daily News.*

VISIT OF M. DE GIERS TO PRINCE BISMARCK.

Telegraphing on Sunday night, the Berlin correspondent of the *Standard* says:—

The visit of M. de Giers to Prince Bismarck at Varzin naturally forms the chief topic of conversation here to-day. The intimations contained in the St. Petersburg and Vienna semi-official papers to the effect that the event has no political significance are treated here simply as hollow diplomatic phrases. There is another version of the event, according to which it is chiefly intended to counteract the bad effect of Count Ignatieff's recent doings in Paris, and this may be among the incidental objects of the visit. The main motive for the meeting, however, I have reason to believe, is simply to contradict the apprehensions and statements that very serious differences still exist between the Russian and German Governments. The visit of M. de Giers to Varzin is intended as an ostentatious demonstration of the fact that the Czar abides faithfully by the assurances he gave at Dantzic last year, and that he desires to continue to live in peace with the Empire of his grand uncle the German Emperor. What has brought the two Russian and German Statesmen together at this moment is, I believe, not the ratification of any new and grand scheme of International policy, but principally the desire to show that the differences which may have recently divided Russia and Germany have now been substantially composed and removed. One effect of the *entente* now renewed between Germany and Russia will, I believe, soon be apparent in the Balkan Peninsula, where, among other things, the Czar will protest against the incorporation of Bosnia in the Austrian Empire as soon as Austria is ready to carry out the annexation. In connection with the visit of M. de Giers to Prince Bismarck, it is only natural that writers here shall recall that unusual passage in the Prussian Speech from the Throne referring to foreign Governments, in which the Emperor declared that "peace on all sides is assured." The visit, in fact, will inaugurate, at least for a time, a more amicable tone among German politicians in speaking of Russian affairs. It is sufficiently certain that the Czar's Government is really desirous of living on cordial terms with Germany. It is clear that the dislike expressed in Russia for the Nyemetz is a feeling confined to popular and irresponsible parties, and is discouraged by the Czar and his Ministers. With regard to international questions, no doubt, the subject of the extradition of Anarchists may have been touched upon in Varzin; but Russia and Germany have always been as one upon this question, and Prince Bismarck has, I understand, been kept well informed by the St. Petersburg Government as to its recent negotiations upon this matter with France. Another measure which Russia is reported to contemplate taking very soon will also probably have been advanced a stage by the Varzin meeting. I refer to the rumoured intention of the Czar to abolish the special Russian Legations to the smaller German Courts of Munich, Dresden, and Carlsruhe—a measure the announcement of which has been well received throughout Germany.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, SUNDAY.

The Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice and attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe, the Dowager Marchioness of Ely, Major-General Du Plat and Captain A. Bigge, arrived at the Castle shortly after 5 p.m. yesterday from Buckingham Palace.—The Very Rev. G. Connor, Dean of Windsor, had the honour of being included in her Majesty's dinner party. The Queen and Princess Beatrice attended Divine service this morning in the private chapel. The Very Rev. G. Connor, Dean of Windsor, officiated and preached the sermon.

The officers, non-commissioned officers, and men forming a portion of the Indian Contingent lately serving in Egypt, and who are now on a visit to England, had the honour of being received by the Prince and Princess of Wales at Marlborough House on Saturday afternoon. The officers were presented to their Royal Highnesses by Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Daly, Major-General Sir Charles Brownlow and Major-General Sir Herbert Macpherson were present on the occasion.

The Prince of Wales, attended by Colonel A. Ellis, went to the Charing-cross Station on Sunday morning to take leave of the Crown Princess of Germany on her return to Berlin.

Baron Mohrenheim, the Russian Ambassador, left Claridge's Hotel on Saturday, and proceeded by the eleven o'clock train from Charing-cross to Paris direct, on his way to Copenhagen.

The Earl of Courtown has left town for Courtown House, Gorey, county Wexford.

The Earl of Harrowby, after a long and painful illness, died about five o'clock on Sunday evening at his residence, Sandon Hall, Staffordshire. The deceased, who was in his 85th year, was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated B.A. in 1820, and afterwards M.A. and D.C.L. In 1819 he was returned to the House of Commons as one of the members for Tiverton, which he represented till 1830, and he sat for Liverpool from 1831 until 1847, when he succeeded to the title on the death of his father, the first earl. He was Secretary to the India Board during the earlier part of Earl Grey's Administration, was appointed Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster under Lord Palmerston's first Administration in 1855, and exchanged that post for the office of Lord Privy Seal, which he resigned in December, 1857. The deceased earl, who obtained the Blue Riband of the Garter in 1859, was well known as a philanthropist and a supporter of religious societies and charitable institutions. As the eldest son of the late earl is Viscount Sandon, M.P. for Liverpool, a vacancy will occur in the representation of that constituency by the succession of Lord Sandon to the title.

The death is also announced of Lord Otho Fitzgerald, which occurred quite suddenly on Sunday at his residence, Oakley Court, near Windsor. He had been in a weak condition of health for some time past, but his death was nevertheless quite unexpected. Lord Otho was son of the third Duke of Leinster, his mother being a daughter of the third Earl of Harrington. He was born in 1827, and married in 1861 the Dowager Lady Londesborough. He was educated at Carton, Maynooth, and became a lieutenant of the Royal Horse Guards in 1847, but retired in 1853, becoming captain in the Lancashire Hussars a few years later. In 1855 his lordship held the post of Master of the Horse to the Lord Lieutenant, to which office he was again appointed in 1858. He was made Gentleman of the Bedchamber in the Royal Household in 1859, but resigned in 1862. For a few weeks in 1866, during Earl Russell's shortlived Government, he was Treasurer of the Royal Household, and was Controller from December, 1866, to February, 1874. For a brief period he held a commission as captain in the Royal Irish Rifle Volunteers. His parliamentary services extended over a period ranging from July, 1865, to January, 1874, during which he sat as member for the county of Kildare.

TOO REALISTIC.—A panic occurred on Saturday night in a show at Yeovil fair. An African was being exhibited as a specimen of the most savage people in the world, and when he had in his hands an assegai, and appeared to be forcing his way through the bars, the spectators suddenly rushed out of the place in a state of terror, breaking down the front woodwork of the booth, smashing the musical instruments, and doing other damage. Several persons were knocked down and trodden upon, but fortunately no one was seriously injured. The assegai performance was subsequently suspended.

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

It may be worth mentioning, observes the *Athenæum*, that a well-known periodical is at present embarrassed by the failure of a novelist, who is not at present in England, to supply the conclusion of his tale. All the chapters that he has sent have been published, and for the last two months the editor of the magazine has been forced to put in padding to fill the void. As the publishers have paid for the whole story, they are wondering whether its title, "Fortune's Fool," may not be supposed to apply to them.

Mr. Gladstone has recommended Mr. David Wingate, a Lanarkshire poet, for a pension of £50 on the Civil List; and it is also stated that he did not do this until he had first read Mr. Wingate's poems.—*Academy.*

Mr. A. J. Duffield, who has recently visited the scenes of the earliest discoveries of Columbus and his companions, will publish shortly "American Days: the Romance of a Lost Kingdom."

Mr. Ruskin, who lectures at the London Institution on December 4th, has changed his mind about his subject. It will not be "Crystallography," as announced, but "Cistercian Architecture."

Messrs. Wyman and Sons will publish, says the *Athenæum*, before the end of this month the volume of selections from the Wentworth papers in the British Museum, chiefly illustrating political and social life during the reign of Queen Anne, which we noticed last year as being in preparation by Mr. J. J. Cartwright. The greater number of the letters printed in the volume were addressed by friends and relatives in London to Lord Raby (afterwards Earl of Strafford) when he was Ambassador at Berlin and the Hague.

"Pearls of the Faith," the new poem by Mr. Edwin Arnold, will be ready for publication in Christmas week. The American publishers will also have a large edition ready for sale during the holiday season.

Mr. George Saintsbury has edited, for the French section of the Clarendon Press series, Corneille's play of *Horace*, with introduction and notes. A prominent feature of the book is the Prolegomena, which consist of short essays on the life and writings of Corneille, French tragedy before Corneille, the tragedy of Corneille and Racine, French tragedy after Racine, and the stage in the time of Corneille.

Miss Betham-Edwards, author of "Kitty," will contribute a serial story to *Good Words* next year, entitled "Pearla; or the World after an Island." Miss Hoppus, the author of "Five Chimney Farm," has in the press a novel, to be published by Messrs. Hurst and Blackett, called "A Story of Carnival."

Professor W. H. Flowers, F.R.S., has been awarded one of the Royal medals of the Royal Society, of the value of fifty guineas, for his contributions to the morphology and classification of the mammalia, and to anthropology.

The essays for the Triennial and Jacksonian Prizes of the College of Surgeons must be sent in on or before Saturday, the 30th prox., addressed to the Secretary of the College.

It is intended, says the *Athenæum*, to signalize the recent opening of the new art collections and other treasures at Derby by forming as numerous a gathering as may be of the works of Wright of Derby, and placing them before the public as one of the attractions of the coming season. A peculiar interest will thus be given to an event which is important because it may be accepted as the first of a series commemorating the foundation of local museums and art collections in various parts of the country by local efforts, aided by liberal gifts analogous to that for which the Derby Museum owes much to Mr. Bass. Several towns in the North and the Midlands are actively promoting the foundation of such museums.

Mr. James Platt has undertaken to copy and edit for the Early-English Text Society, from the unique MS. in the old royal collection in the British Museum, Bede's *Liber Scintillarum*. This treatise contains many Anglo-Saxon words which are found in the dictionaries of Lye and Somner, but which have not yet appeared in any printed text.

Mr. Platt is also preparing a paper, for the Philological Society, on the changes which the genders of Latin words undergo in becoming Anglo-Saxon. These depend partly on the endings of the words, and partly on the gender of the words they supplant. Thus the Latin neuter *participium* is treated as a masculine, because the Anglo-Saxon noun for which it was substituted was masculine.

Dr. Sterry Hunt stated, at a meeting held in Montreal on October 26th, that the American Association for the Promotion of Science would meet in 1884 at Newhaven, and so arrange their gathering that the members of the British Association then visiting Canada would have the opportunity of attending both meetings.

The *Academy* regrets to learn that Dr. Schliemann has again been laid up by his Troad fever since his return home to Athens. Archæological exploration is not free from its own risks.

The report on the manuscripts of the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, upon which Mr. Maxwell Lyte has been for some time engaged under the authority of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, is now completed. It is very bulky, for an abstract of every document of value which has not been quoted in printed works is given. The Commissioners will publish this report next year in the general report of their proceedings. Mr. Lyte has also completed a report on the manuscripts of Eton College.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL NOTES.

Mr. Charles Reade and Mr. Henry Pettitt, the joint authors of the new play produced at the Adelphi on Saturday night, have each done before now excellent melodramatic work. Each has shown himself capable of devising the strong situations and of setting in motion the vigorous action characteristic of the most popular pieces presented at a theatre such as the Adelphi. It is, therefore, hardly surprising that *Love and Money*, the play in which these two have collaborated, should possess enough material for at least a couple of melodramas. Still less is it to be wondered at that these skilful workmen, instead of being encumbered by their own fertility of invention, should weave their complicated plot and superabundant incidents into a spirited and by no means incoherent whole. Their management of a very difficult story, or, at any rate, of a story extremely difficult to tell with precision, shows that they know thoroughly well what they are about; and although one of them at all events might fittingly employ his powers upon stage work of a higher order, he, together with his coadjutor, is certainly to be congratulated upon the result of his unambitious labours. The ringing cheers which greeted Messrs. Reade and Pettitt at the close of their piece gave hearty evidence of their ability to please the audience for which they had contrived and written their piece; and there seems no reason to doubt that *Love and Money* will take its place amongst the popular successes of the Adelphi.—*Observer.*

The "little theatre in the Strand," so long and successfully managed by Mrs. Swanborough, has disappeared, and its place has been taken by a commodious and elegant building, which was opened on Saturday night with every token of success. Mrs. Swanborough had provided an attractive programme for the brilliant audience which crowded her beautiful theatre. First came Coleman's perennial comedy, *The Heir-at-Law*, with the popular Mr. J. S. Clarke as Dr. Pangloss. The second half of the programme was filled by a new "Musical Comedy," written by MM. Byron and Farnie, and founded on the French play, *Charlot*, familiar to English play-goers as *The Frolics of a Night*. The new comedy is entitled *Frolique*, and affords opportunity to Mr. J. S. Clarke's drolleries as the provincial "Pierrot," who visits Paris in search of adventures. The lyrics have been set to melodies by Hervé, Planquette, and other composers, and these have been cleverly orchestrated by Mr. John Fitzgerald, the musical director of the theatre.

Mr. Tennyson's new drama, which has obtained a useful advertisement from the singular conduct of Lord Queensberry the other night, and has been defended in the newspapers both by Mr. Hermann Vezin and by "a correspondent," said to be the author's son, has, during the past week, attracted larger and more favourable audiences than might have been anticipated from the augury of its stormy first night. It may, therefore, eventually prove a satisfactory production, at any rate from one point of view; but it should be borne in mind by those who are anxious to reverse the earlier verdict, that such a success may, through various causes, be attained without any real reference to the qualities of the piece as a work of dramatic art. In the meantime, however, it is only just to note that the fact is as we have stated, and that plenty of public interest is shown in *The Promise of May*.

The Covent Garden Promenade Concerts received several acquisitions last week. On Tuesday evening Mr. Maas was included among the vocalists, and Miss Orridge made her first appearance this season. On Friday night the programme was associated with "quaint and peculiar music," comprising the popular "Toy Symphony."

At Drury-Lane, *Pluck* has now passed its ninetieth representation. The Haymarket continues *The Overland Route*. At the Adelphi, *Drink* was played for the last time on Friday. The Lyceum continues to be crowded, and *Much Ado about Nothing* is found even increasingly attractive. The Gaiety retains *Little Robin Hood*. No change has taken place at the Vaudeville and Opera Comique. The Court Theatre was reopened by Mr. John Clayton on Tuesday night with Mr. Godfrey's comedy of *The Parvenu*, and a new comedietta called *Picking Up the Pieces*, in which Miss Carlotta Addison and Mr. Arthur Cecil appeared.

Miss Kate Pattison's friends will regret to hear that she was the principal sufferer among the members of Mrs. Langtry's company by the destruction of the Park Theatre, New York, the whole of her wardrobe, valued at about £300, being lost in the conflagration.

Last week, says the *Era*, we had the pleasant intimation to convey that Mr. Henry Irving and Mr. J. L. Toole had paid a friendly visit to that once celebrated actress Miss Fanny Kelly, now in her ninety-third year, with the hope of making some arrangements which might help in a pecuniary sense to smooth the declining days of the "mother of the stage." We have this week the gratification of recording that, in compliance with the requisition of a memorial bearing most influential names, the Premier has awarded Miss Fanny Kelly a grant of £150. There need be no delicacy in stating that to the untiring efforts of Mr. Charles Kent, author of the admirable life of Charles Lamb in the "Centenary Edition," which he so ably edited, this recognition of histrionic talent, delighting playgoers of the last as well as the present century, is mainly due.

Upwards of 1,500 students are now industriously pursuing their studies in the Guildhall School of Music.—*City Press.*

A new high-class musical association has been formed, somewhat after the plan of the Bach Choir, to be called the Handel Society. The rehearsals for vocal and instrumental members commenced last week at No. 4, Carlton Gardens, with Mr F. A. W. Docker as conductor. The works now in preparation are Handel's "Belshazzar," Utrecht "Jubilate," Funeral Anthem, "The Ways of Zion," and Water Music, together with compositions by Gluck, Brahms, and Raff.

A letter, says the *Athenæum*, has been recently addressed by Mr. T. L. Southgate to a daily contemporary on the subject of the contemplated sale of the library of the late Sacred Harmonic Society. It is no secret that one of the chief musical societies of America is desirous of purchasing the library *en bloc*. Mr. Southgate strongly protests against its being allowed to leave the country, and we cordially endorse his arguments. The library is, in many respects, unique, being especially rich in early English music, both printed and manuscript, and in works of musical history and literature. It will be nothing short of a national loss if this fine collection is allowed to go to America.

The statement of accounts in connection with the late Festival of the Three Choirs at Hereford has just been audited by the Executive Committee, and the result shows that £2,776 was received for tickets and books of words, which, with a guarantee fund of £850 and a balance from previous festival of about £88, make a total of £3,714. The total payments were £3,611, of which £1,217 was appropriated to principal singers, £946 to the band, and £664 in round sums to the chorus. Of the total balance of £102 17s. 5d., a sum of £57 10s. was applied for the purchase of orchestra and fittings, and £45 7s. 5d. carried on to the credit of the next Festival. The collection for the Widow and Orphan Charity was £867 5s. 2d.

DEATH OF DR. EDWARD HAWKINS.

Information was received at Oriel College on Saturday of the death of its Provost, Dr. Edward Hawkins, at the age of 93. His death took place at Rochester, where he had resided as Canon since 1874, in which year advancing age led to his retirement from the duties of the headship, which were delegated to Mr. D. B. Monro as Vice-Provost. Dr. Hawkins's active connection with Oriel College, which began with his election as Fellow in 1813, succeeded by his appointment as Tutor in 1819, extended, therefore, through the most important period in the history of Oriel. It was in 1828 that he was elected to the Provostship, in succession to the still more famous Bishop Copleston. Upon this post he had, according to a story repeated by Mr. Mozley, fixed his aspirations while still a member of St. John's College. The choice of the electors lay between Keble and Hawkins, and Newman, who was at the time Tutor, to the surprise of many, supported the latter. But it was not long before the new Provost came into collision with his Tutors. They were bent upon various reforms in the subjects and methods of study, and especially upon drawing closer relations between Tutor and pupil. Dr. Hawkins's idea, on the other hand, was, in Mr. Mozley's words, that of the French King, "*L'état, c'est moi!*" The disagreement led to the introduction of Hampden, a former Fellow, to give the College lectures, and in time to the resignation of Newman. We are nevertheless told by Mr. Mozley that the Cardinal was much surprised and concerned at the statement of Dr. Pusey that 'Newman had lived to regret the part he had taken in Hawkins's election.' Of the relations between the two men, and of Hawkins's influence upon him, Cardinal Newman himself gives a striking account in his "Apologia"—"I can say with a full heart that I love him, and have never ceased to love him. . . . He was the first who taught me to weigh my words and to be cautious in my statements. . . . As to doctrine, he was the means of great additions to my belief. . . . When I read it (his celebrated sermon on Tradition) and studied it as his gift, it made a most serious impression upon me." With another and very different member of the Oriel body, destined also to exercise a great influence upon English life and thought, Dr. Hawkins maintained intimate relations. He had predicted that if Arnold were elected to Rugby "he would change the face of education throughout the public schools of England," and this intimacy and confidence were kept up in spite of divergence on such questions as Catholic emancipation and the admission of Dissenters to the University. Thus Arnold writes to him:—"I am delighted to find that on the Priest question, which I think is the fundamental one of the whole matter, we are quite agreed." And, in spite of the sermon on Unauthoritative Tradition, of which Arnold elsewhere complains as "serving unawares the cause of error and schism," the attitude of the Provost of Oriel was essentially, and from the very nature of the man, antagonistic to the Tractarian movement which encompassed him, and with the heads of which he was officially connected. He had a difficult position, but a man who possessed the love of Newman, the confidence and affection of Arnold, and the respect of all that varied body of able men, could have been possessed of no ordinary qualities. With the retirement of Dr. Hawkins in 1874, there disappeared from Oxford well-nigh the last link binding the Oxford of the "movement" with the life and aims of the modern University; and the Oriel of Newman, Keble, Arnold, Hampden, and Whateley entered upon a less brilliant and less distinctive, though, perhaps, equally useful phase of academic life. It was typical of impending changes and by an irony of fortune that it was the Provost of Oriel who was Chairman of the Committee for the Extension of the University, which met in 1865, whose work resulted finally in the founding of Keble College, the commencements of the non-collegiate system, and the ever-increasing growth of the Colleges themselves upon new lines, and under relaxed conditions. It remains to add that Dr. Hawkins was a double first-class man of the old days—that he was Bampton Lecturer in 1840, and was appointed Dean Ireland's Professor of Exegesis in 1847—being the first to hold the chair. As Provost of Oriel he held the Canonry of Rochester, and the Rectory of Purleigh, in Essex. Provision has been made by the late University Commission for the separation of these ecclesiastical preferments from the headship, so that it will be open to the electors to make choice of a layman as Provost of the College. The Canonry of Rochester is to be attached to a Professorship of Biblical Exegesis, which may or may not be held with the existing less amply endowed Professorship of the same subject. Dr. Hawkins married, shortly after his appointment as Provost, Mary, daughter of Mr. Richard Buckle, of Bristol, who survives him, together with one son and daughter.—*Times.*

ASSEMBLY AT THE WAR OFFICE.

The Secretary of State for War and Mrs. Childers held a reception at the War Office, Pall-mall, on Saturday night. The invitations, which were for ten o'clock, stated, "To have the honour of meeting their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales on the return of the Generals from Egypt." The chief official rooms of the War Office were very prettily decorated with trophies of arms and flags, and in several parts full length suits of armour from the National Collection at the Tower filled vacant spaces. Plants and flowers were tastefully arranged in the several rooms, and they were all lighted by wax candles. Two rooms were set apart for refreshments, one on the ground floor and one adjoining the saloons, everything wearing a bright and festive aspect. The band of the Royal engineers, conducted by Herr G. R. Sawerthal, played throughout the reception, being stationed close to the grand staircase. Mrs. Childers received her guests in the Private Secretary's room. Princess Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck and the Duke of Teck, the Hon. Mary Thesiger being in waiting, arrived at twenty minutes past ten o'clock. The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh arrived from Clarence House shortly afterwards, attended by the Hon. Mrs. Monson and Captain L'Estrange. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught came next, attended by Captain and Hon. Mrs. Egerton. The Prince and Princess of Wales arrived at eleven o'clock from Marlborough House, accompanied by the Crown Princess of Germany and the Grand Duke of Hesse, the Crown Princess being attended by Countess Bruhl, Count Seckendorff, and Colonel the Hon. H Byng. The illustrious party were received as they entered the hall by Mr. and Mrs. Childers, and at once proceeded to the principal saloon, the band of the Royal Engineers playing the National Anthem as the Royal guests passed. The Duke of Cambridge, attended by Colonel Bateson, was also present. The distinguished and numerous company which thronged the saloons included the Turkish, German, and Austrian Ambassadors, the Netherlands, Belgian, Swedish, Spanish, Greek, and Roumanian Ministers; the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, and the Military and Naval Secretaries of several Embassies, General Sir John and Lady Adye and Mr. Adye, the Lord Chancellor and Lady Selborne, and Hon. Miss Palmer, the First Lord of the Admiralty and Lady Emma Baring, the Earl and Countess of Morley, the Lord Chamberlain, Earl Waldegrave, Viscount and Viscountess Bury, Viscount and Viscountess de Vesci, Viscount Melgund, Field Marshal Lord Strathnairn, General Lord Mark Kerr, General Lord and Lady Chelmsford, Baroness Burdett Coutts and Mr. Burdett Coutts, Lord and Lady Wm. Seymour, Lord and Lady Sandhurst, Lord and Lady Sudeley, General Sir Herbert and Lady Macpherson and Miss Macpherson, Lieut.-General Sir George and Lady Willis, Lieut.-General Sir Edward Hamley, Lieut.-General Sir Evelyn and Lady Wood, Major-General Sir D. C. and Lady Drury-Lowe, Colonel Sir Cromer Ashburnham, Colonel Sir Oriel and Lady Tanner, the officers of the Indian Contingent, and a host of military officers, and members of the House of Commons, etc. The Crown Princess of Germany and attendants left at ten minutes to twelve o'clock, and drove to Buckingham Palace. The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh were next to take their departure; and at midnight the Prince and Princess of Wales and Grand Duke of Hesse left. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught, the Duke of Cambridge, and the Princess Mary Adelaide (Duchess) and the Duke of Teck retired immediately afterwards, when the general company dispersed.

AURORA BOREALIS.—A correspondent writes to a contemporary:—"For some days last week magnetic instruments showed signs of activity, and shortly before noon on Friday a great disturbance began and continued until Saturday morning. This proved the precursor of one of the finest auroral displays which have taken place for some time. Shortly after a glowing sunset a bright ruddy light was visible in the northern sky, the brilliancy increasing and reaching its maximum near Vega (the bright star in Lyra) about a quarter past five. The aurora, which was very irregular in form, extended over all the north-west portion of the sky. About a quarter of an hour later a very fine streamer started from the north horizon, and reached to the zenith. It was of a bright red colour, with a green streak running through it. Soon after this a broad band appeared at about E.N.E., and moved across the sky, in the form of an arch, to about S. by. E. Shortly before six the reddish hue disappeared, and was succeeded by a pale green which extended for some degrees above the N.W. horizon. About six o'clock an exceedingly brilliant streak nearly twenty degrees long, and in form somewhat resembling a fine comet, appeared in the E.N.E., and moved slowly across the sky towards the west, where it disappeared; this streamer was of unusual brilliancy, and lasted about two or two and a half minutes. The aurora was visible more or less throughout the evening, and shortly before twelve o'clock it again became very bright. A quarter of an hour before midnight an arch extended over the northern sky, from which some short streamers shot out; a little later the form became very irregular, but some bright streams reached from the horizon (N.E. to N.W.) nearly to the zenith. After this brilliant display, the aurora became very faint, but patches of rosy light continued visible until about three a.m. It is a point worthy of note that a very large group of spots was on the sun on Wednesday, and on Thursday it was not far from the centre.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 20–21, 1882.

THE CONSERVATIVE SUCCESS AT SALISBURY.

The moral of the Conservative success at Salisbury is not, perhaps, a very weighty one; but it is unmistakeable. The defeat of their candidate will serve to remind the Government that the glamour with which, in the eyes of their too confident friends, the achievements of our soldiers have invested them, does not bewitch the judgments of the Constituencies. In the flush of their triumph—perhaps it would be more just to say in the hour when a piece of conspicuous good fortune has varied the long course of discomfiture—a chance has occurred for testing the feeling of a typically English borough. Salisbury has replied to the appeal of the Liberals by withdrawing the confidence it placed in the Party at the General Election. We would not be understood to imply that the opinion of Great Britain may be read in Wilts, or that the Conservative victory at Salisbury is a certain indication and forerunner of a series of similar successes elsewhere. It is never safe to make the result of bye-elections too absolute a base for forcasts. Local considerations, not easily appreciable at a distance, sometimes make their influence felt quite as much as general political conditions. Salisbury, it must be frankly confessed, has, like a good many other Cathedral cities, shown in recent years some fickleness and inconsistency in its Party attachments. It is true that at all the nine elections, from 1847 to 1874, it chose only Liberals or a Liberal Conservative. But in 1874, after a close struggle between the two great Parties, one member of each was elected. In 1880 Salisbury succumbed to the influences which sapped the faith even of traditionally Conservative boroughs, and two Liberals, Mr. W. H. Grenfell and Mr. Passmore Edwards, were at the head of the poll. But all the contests since 1867 have been singularly close. At the last General Election both sides exerted themselves to the utmost, the result being that the two successful Liberals obtained respectively nine hundred and sixty-one and nine hundred and fifty-eight votes, while the two defeated Conservatives polled—one, eight hundred and forty-one; the other, eight hundred and twenty-eight. The present Election almost exactly reverses the issue. For Mr. Coleridge Kennard, who in 1880 was the higher of the two Conservatives, nine hundred and fifty-five votes were recorded yesterday; against eight hundred and fifty-two given to Mr. Grenfell, who in 1880 was at the head of the poll. In other words, he now defeats by one hundred and three votes the candidate who at the General Election worsted him by a majority of one hundred and twenty. As the constituency consists of little more than two thousand registered electors, it is pretty clear that feeling was deeply stirred, and Mr. Grenfell can hardly explain away his failure by that resource of the disappointed—the abstention of the Party following.—*Standard.*

The *Daily News* says:—Mr. Kennard has polled fewer votes than either of the successful candidates in 1880; and Mr. Grenfell received more than were then given to either of the unsuccessful candidates, so that the result is due to the shifting of rather more than a hundred votes from one side to the other. Mr. Kennard has thus gained the reward of the diligent attentions he has paid to the constituency ever since his defeat in 1880. The result was not altogether unexpected by those who knew the borough. It once more illustrates the skill or good fortune which so often attends the Conservative party at bye-elections and deserts them on a general appeal to the country. The return of Mr. Edward Clarke for Southwark and the immediate reversal of that decision at the general election is only one illustration of the failure of bye-elections to represent the views of the electors on great national questions. Notwithstanding this late proof of the danger of exaggerating such successes, the Conservative party will probably exhibit much exultation over their victory. It will no doubt encourage them to efforts in other constituencies now vacant, and it should stimulate the Liberals in those constituencies to greater effort. They have the disadvantages which always belong to the party in party. The promises of the general election are only promises still, but the time for their fulfilment is drawing near. It is evident that the autumnal prolongation of the Session will accomplish the work set out for it, and that next year the Government will be in a position to bring forward and to carry the measures which this Parliament was specially elected to pass. At this crisis a group of elections have happened, and it is not surprising that exaggerated importance should be attached to them. At Edinburgh, which came first, the Conservative party did not even start a candidate, though two Liberals polled against each other. At Preston, which is regarded as a safe Conservative seat the Liberal party is taking a similar course in presence of Conservative division. Mr. Tomlinson, however, represents the more popular wing of the Conservative party in the town. He has been set aside by the party managers, and it seems not unlikely that he may inflict upon them a well-deserved defeat. His return, should it take place, will nevertheless not constitute a Liberal gain. The present division may be a step towards a Liberal success in the future.

NECESSITY AND DIPLOMACY.

It is easy to say hard things about the impotence of Turkish diplomacy as displayed in the Yellow Book, and indeed in books of any colour which give the correspondence respecting the affairs of Egypt during the last six months. But the hope so solemnly expressed by the Paris correspondent of the *Times* that the phantasmagoria of Constantinople diplomacy has been dispelled and will never again form an obstacle to the resolves of the Powers, seems hardly called for. The Sultan held such extremely poor cards that no possible management of them could have done much for him. It is true that he made no use of the only advantage he had—the persistent and, on the surface, inexplicable desire of the English Government that he should himself intervene in Egypt. But there are victories which a general cannot afford to win; and the appearance of Turkish troops in Egypt side by side with the English army, though it would have been exceedingly inconvenient to England, may have had all manner of dangers for the Porte. The chances are that Orientals know Orientals better than Europeans can often know them; and when Turkish Ministers will not advise their Sovereign to consult what seems to be his own interest, it is probable that they have in view other and nearer interests, which would be injured by the adoption of such a policy. To have a finger in Egyptian affairs is so obviously what the Sultan must desire that when, in spite of the strongest pressure, he refuses to touch them, it is fair to assume that the particular form which it was proposed his action should take had drawbacks of which the Sultan and his Ministers were the best judges. Nor is it possible to accept without reserve the compliment which the same correspondent pays to our own diplomacy. "England alone," he says, "seems to know what she wants, and to pursue a fixed object without allowing herself to be diverted, right or left, by the incidents of the way." Granting that in the later phases of Egyptian policy this praise was deserved, it is still well to bear in mind how easy our path has been made. The very incidents of the way did as a matter of fact compel us to keep our eyes straight in front of us. At every critical moment the course to be followed was marked too plainly to be mistaken. If France had been equally helped by events she would probably have pursued an equally decided policy. The difficulty was that the interest she had in the matter was crossed and bomplicated by a variety of considerations in which we had no share. England had to gain a specific military end of the very first importance; France had no military end to gain. England was able to throw her whole strength into the Egyptian business: France had to consider possible foreign complications nearer home. In England a war was pretty sure to be popular; in France the lessons of 1870 have been so thoroughly learned that nothing but an unmistakeable call could bring the French people to engage in one. England had interests in Egypt which only she herself could protect; the most important interests that France has there will be substantially protected under any kind of good government that the English nation may set up there. The glory of having been throughout the Egyptian business so much cleverer and more resolute than France is but a poor thing to claim on behalf of England. England had special advantages, and special needs compelling her not to let these advantages slip. France had no special advantages, and no special needs compelling her to manufacture advantages where none existed. There is no parallel between the two positons of the two countries; consequently there is no need to plume ourselves on the fact that when France retired from the partnership with England the larger part of the estate fell to the share of England. It was inevitable that it should be so from the very nature of the case; and the object of English politicians should be to show that it was inevitable, and that, being inevitable, it reflects only credit on the French nation that it should so instinctively have recognized the truth.—*St. James's Gazette.*

EUROPEAN DIPLOMACY.

Referring to the visit of M. de Giers to Prince Bismarck, the *Morning Post* says the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs will probably, both at Varzin and Vienna, point out the unreasonableness of imputing to Russia any desire to break the peace of Europe by a quarrel either with Austria or Germany, and if he contrives to see some Italian statesmen during his residence in Italy he may repeat these assurances:—

We must admit that in Austria there is a portion of the population which readily gives rein to its imagination upon the subject of Austro-Russian complications, and which would like nothing better than to be able to prophesy with truth an Austria-Russian war. We refer, of course, to the Polish element, which has by no means abandoned the hope of the resurrection of Poland, and which would gladly see the Crown of Sobieski on the brow of a Hapsburg, if the realm of Sobieski could be torn from the grasp of the Romanoffs. The very intensity of the anti-Russian spirit of the Austrian Poles must, however, make their evidence less safe in a question of the kind, and it is not to be forgotten also that, besides the Austrian Poles, there are Poles in Russian Poland; and the Prussian Poles are, there is reason to believe, far less bitterly disposed to Russia to-day than a short time ago. While cherishing much of their old national ambition, they have come to regard Russia as preferable to Germany. They consider Russianisation far less likely and formidable than the encroachments of German culture and force, and they are, besides, quite sensible of the immense advantages which the Russian protectionist tariff has conferred on the manufacturing districts of Russian Roland. M. de Giers may be able to say with perfect candour that it is the desire of St. Petersburg to keep on good terms both with Vienna and Berlin. But there are other objects which may still not less deeply concern Russian statesmen. While Mr. Gladstone is assaulting the Turkish Empire on one side, M. de Giers may think that Armenia should not be more sacred than Egypt, and he may desire to have the views of the German and Anstrian allies upon so interesting a topic.

THE REPRESENTATION OF LIVERPOOL.—The news of Lord Harrowby's death, which did not reach Liverpool till very late on Sunday night, has been received with general regret. Nothing will be done towards filling the vacancy caused by Lord Sandon's elevation until after the funeral. The local Conservative leader, Mr. A. B. Forwood, who is mentioned as a probable Conservative candidate, is at present in America. The general impression is that the Liberals will not contest the seat—though Mr. Guion, a prominent local Liberal, has been mentioned in connection with the vacancy.

AFFAIRS OF EGYPT.

In a despatch dated Monday the Cairo Correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says:

I have had an opportunity of seeing the depositions of certain witnesses to be examined at the trial of Arabi before the Commission of Inquiry. I send extracts from the evidence of Soleyman Bey Sami, Lieutenant-Colonel of the 6th Regiment of Infantry, and a confidant of Arabi, on the most intimate terms with him after the pilage, burning, and massacre in Alexandria. Though Arabi states that Soleyman carried this out against his orders, the testimony of Soleyman is confirmed by other witnesses. He begins by giving the history of the seditious movement before June 11. After the massacre Arabi ordered Yacoob Samy to be careful not to implicate the soldiers, and said that Bey Kandil, the Prefect of Police at Alexandria, and two other persons, knew of his intention to carry out the massacre some days before it took place, and had warned several shopkeepers to close their establishments on June 11. When informed of this Toulba indignantly denied the whole statement, which, however, was afterwards confirmed by Sheikh Koussa and Ahmed Tewfik. When Seymour's ultimatum was given in, Arabi stated that "Europeans were not to give Egyptians orders, and that the massacre of June 11 would teach Europeans to keep within their proper bounds, and that Egyptians not only had zeal and courage, but that their religion compelled them to kill every Christian who violated the rights of the Mussulman." Arabi fully approved of the massacre. He also ordered Soleyman to proceed with the works at Adjeoi Fort, because they were distant and could not be seen by the British. The witness admitted stating, after the arrival of the British fleet, that if the English landed he would burn Alexandria by the orders of Arabi, who first gave those orders when the Egyptian officers presented themselves to him to thank him for their promotion, and repeated the same privately frequently afterwards, as also when reviewing certain Egyptian regiments. After the bombardment Arabi slept in one room with Soleyman at the Rosetta Gate Barracks. Next day, at sunrise, Arabi ordered Soleyman to take one battalion, go to the square, and, if the bombardment should be resumed, to set fire to the town. This order was given in the presence of Omar Rahmy Toulba. Arabi sent with the witness four cavalry sergeants—one to organise the exodus of the inhabitants, another to order the troops stationed at different places to muster at the Rosetta Gates, and two others for service with the witness.

When the British fired a few shots he (witness) did not commence firing the town. Mahmoud Samy passed by and ordered the witness not to allow the soldiers to begin pillaging till the fire should have begun. Ibraham Fanzi, Arabi's aide-de-camp, came up and asked why the orders were not being carried out, and himself ordered soldiers to begin burning. Then the soldiers broke open a grocer's shop near the police-station, obtained petroleum there, and commenced incendiarism. Toulba passed through the square several times while the pillage and fire were proceeding, but said nothing. The witness was then summoned by Arabi, and found him and Omar Rahmy at Rosetta Gate. The latter said, in Arabi's presence, "Go to Ramleh and kill the Khedive." Witness refused. Mahmoud Samy came up and urged the witness to obey. Sultan Raghib and Rouchdi Pachas then came and asked Arabi to withdraw the cordon of soldiers round the Place Khedive, and Arabi refused to do so. Arabi then ordered the troops to abandon the town.

Hitherto the information respecting the trial of the rebels has been supplied by the defence; the Government, in accordance with rules obtaining with respect to cases actually before Court, has abstained from giving any information. The British public thus has not the means of forming an accurate judgment. Every precaution has been taken to ensure a fair trial. If the accusations against Arabi and his accomplices be substantiated these latter and their leader must receive an adequate punishment, otherwise the authority of the Khedive and his Ministers will be impaired. As a logical consequence England will have to assume the responsibility of governing the country.

Rogers Bey was raised to-day by the Khedive to the rank of Moutamais, the highest class of Civil Bey, as the reward of valuable services rendered to the Government. Barton will leave to-morrow for Ghaza, to seek for tidings of Professor Palmer.

THE MALAGASY ENVOYS IN PARIS.

The following letter has been addressed to the editor of the *Daily News*:—

Sir,—Having among my acquaintance several gentlemen who either have resided or are now residing in Madagascar, I gladly joined the Committee which was formed on Tuesday last for the purpose of keeping the public informed of the political difficulties with which that island is at present surrounded; and having heard it stated at a meeting of the above Committee that the Malagasy envoys—who have now been for some time in Paris—were not free agents, but were kept under a system of surveillance, I determined on my own responsibility to pay these gentlemen a visit in order to see, in the first place, whether such was really the case; and, in the second, to ascertain at first-hand, if possible, what the French claims upon the Government of Madagascar really are. Accompanied, therefore, by Mr. Sibree, of Pelham-villa, Catford Bridge, who has resided in Madagascar and is personally acquaintainted with both the envoys I called upon them at their hotel, and sent to them by one of the hotel servants a sealed letter of introduction from Mr. Proctor, the Malagasy consul in London. It immediately became evident that there was a mystery somewhere, as messengers commenced to bustle to and fro. After a considerable interval we were conducted upstairs, and when a further period of time had elapsed two Malagasy subordinates appeared, one of whom bore in his hand the sealed letter which we had sent in, but which was now open, and asked "If we wished it to be shown to their Excellencies." We replied, "Certainly," and but for the presence of others around us would have further inquired who it was who had opened it. Again we waited, and finally were shown into an anteroom and informed by one of the Malagasy, with many apologies, that it would be embarrassing for us to remain. Accordingly we took our leave, and had we required any further evidence of the state of semi-captivity in which the Envoys are kept, it was afforded by reliable information which we afterwards received, but the source of which I am not at present at liberty to mention—that a French official, who rarely leaves them, was with the Malagasy during the forty odd minutes that we were waiting, and that most of that time was occupied by an altercation as to whether we should be admitted or not. From the same source we ascertained that Mr. Tacchi, the English secretary and interpreter to the Embassy, and who accompanied it from Madagascar was, much to his surprise and the annoyance of the Envoys, obliged to leave it at Marseilles. To accomplish our second object was manifestly impossible, but the French claims are now well known to be a demand for a strip of territory some 300 miles long on the mainland of Madagascar, extending from Cape Amber at the extreme north, including the Bay of Diego Suarez, to a point on the north-west coast, including Bembatoka Bay and other inlets, comprising some of the finest harbours in the world. The inland boundary of this strip is an imaginary line, extending, no one knows how far, into the interior; and, as this part of the country has never been scientifically, surveyed, room is thus left for endless future disputes concerning respective frontiers, to end, as such disputes generally do, by the boundary line of the stronger race being pushed ever further forward.

Into the merits or demerits of this immense claim upon the territory of a ruler who has been formally recognised in treaties with England, France, and America as Queen of Madagascar, I shall not here presume to enter, as they will no doubt soon be placed before the country by the Madagascar Committee; and I should besides be loth to give expression to sentiments which would tend to irritate any French susceptibilities, believing as I do that in the great French nation there are many just and generous people, who, if they only knew the circumstances, would deprecate high-handed proceedings with a weaker Power. Surely, however, this is a case in which a friendly Power might suggest arbitration, and the nation refusing such would stand morally condemned before the world. It certainly would be difficult to view unmoved the state of things which a real or attempted enforcement of such a claim would entail. The Hova or Central Government of Madagascar would certainly resist by force, and then good bye to the marvellous advance now being made in the arts of civilization (and civilization in its best sense) by the inhabitants of this interesting island. Where less than fifty years ago savagery prevailed, no language existed, and native Christians were burnt alive or hurled from Mipamariana, the Tarpeian Rock of Madagascar, a settled and orderly government now holds sway; putting down barbarous customs, and replacing them by a regular system of enlightened and codified laws. More than 100,000 natives are receiving education in at least one thousand schools, maintained by both Protestant and Catholic agencies. All this, with its attendant prosperity and greatly increasing trade, has been maintained by the work of British subjects; and it must be the sincere wish of Englishmen that her Majesty's Government, who, I am convinced, desire no extension of British territory, either in Madagascar or elsewhere, and whose policy in retiring from Afghanistan and the Transvaal I cordially supported by my humble vote, may be able by wise and conciliatory means to bring about such a satisfactory understanding between the French Government and that of Madagascar as may avert from the latter country the horrors of invasion and war.—I have the honour to remain, Sir yours sincerely,

JAMES N. RICHARDSON.

Ho use of Commons, Nov. 20.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, MONDAY.

The Grand Duke of Hesse, attended by Major Wernher, arrived at Windsor at 3.10 p.m. yesterday from London. Colonel Lord E. Pelham Clinton, Groom in Waiting, met his Royal Highness at the Great Western Railway Station in Windsor, and attended him to the Castle. The Queen, Princess Beatrice, and the Grand Duke drove yesterday afternoon, and her Majesty drove and walked this morning, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe. Princess Beatrice, with the Grand Duke of Hesse, rode. Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein visited the Queen yesterday afternoon.

The condition of the Archbishop of Canterbury's health has during the last few days been less satisfactory. Sir William Gull and Dr. Carpenter held a consultation at Addington Park on Monday afternoon, and the following bulletin was issued:—"During the last week there has been a return of feverishness, and the strength has diminished. The condition is one of increased anxiety."

The Duke of Edinburgh, upon whom has been conferred the title of the chief colonelcy of the Royal Marine Corps, has, it is stated, intimated his intention of accepting the invitation of the officers of the Chatham Division of the Royal Marines to dine with them in the course of the present week.

The Duke and Duchess of Albany and suite arrived at Windsor Castle on Monday afternoon.

The Marquis of Bath has left town for Longleate, Wilts.

Earl and Countess Granville returned to Carlton House-terrace on Monday, after passing a few days with the Hon. Frederick Leveson Gower at Holmwood, Surrey.

The Hon. Fitzroy Stanhope is slowly recovering from a serious attack of fever and bronchitis at Quebien, his residence in Brittany.

The death is announced of the Hon. Frederick Dudley Ryder, which occurred on Sunday last at Ickleford House, Hitchin, aged 76. The deceased was third son of Dudley, first Earl of Harrowby, by his wife Lady Susan Leveson Gower, sixth daughter of Granville, first Marquis of Stafford. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, and in January, 1827, was appointed a clerk in the Foreign-office, but resigned that position in October, 1834. The deceased gentleman married 14th August, 1839, Marian Charlotte Emily, only child and heir of the late Mr. Thomas Cockayne, of Ickleford House, Herts, by whom, who died in 1878, he leaves a family of five sons and four daughters.

Lady Somers is now pronounced out of danger. The inflammation of the lungs has subsided, and the doctors are able to give their attention to the broken ribs. It is hoped that Lady Somers may be removed from Wimille in a few days.

The Earl and Countess of Romney have arrived at the Alexandra Hotel, Hyde-park-corner.

Viscount and Viscountess Templetown have left Brown's Hotel for Devonport.

Lord and Lady Francis Cecil have left the Alexandra Hotel, Hyde-park-corner.

POLITICAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

We believe that unless satisfactory assurances are received from the Government on Thursday next with regard to the Arrears Act, Mr. Parnell will move the adjournment of the House, in order to call attention to the threatened failure of that Measure. It is expected that the Ulster Liberal members and the moderate Home Rulers will support this course, and that thus the forty members who must now rise in their places in order to permit a Motion for the adjournment to be made will be obtained.

The Speaker having ruled that several of the Motions which Mr. Labouchere put down for this and next week in reference to the Bradlaugh case are out of order, the member for Northampton has placed several Resolutions on the paper for every day this week and next on distinct and independent subjects. These Resolutions, having no connection with each other, are not, it is believed, out of order.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

We understand there is no intention on the part of the Government to make any attempt during the present session to deal with the Arrears Act.

We believe that arrangements will be made by which Mr. Parnell and his friends will have an opportunity of discussing the administration of the Land Act before the prorogation.

Mr. Trevelyan, on behalf of Lord Spencer, invited Mr. A. M. Sullivan to join the Royal Commission now being appointed to inquire into prisons in Ireland. Mr. Sullivan has declined the appointment, which would clash with professional engagements.

FIRE AT A MODEL FARM.—A serious fire occurred on Sunday afternoon at the Model Farm, Hanchurch, Trentham, the property of the Duke of Sutherland. The fire originated in the rick-yard about two o'clock, and raged till a late hour at night, when it burned itself out after destroying all the corn and hay ricks, with the extensive barns, sheds, and other out-buildings, the damage amounting to several thousand pounds. The Model Farm was the finest on the Trentham estate.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

CONGO.

Sir H. HOLLAND asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any communication had been made by her Majesty's Government to the French Government with respect to the alleged treaties made by M. de Brazza on behalf of the latter Government and some chiefs of Congo; and whether he could state the nature of such communication. He also wished to ask whether it was true, as stated in the papers, that urgency had been voted in the French Chamber for the discussion of a Bill empowering the French Government to ratify these treaties.

Sir C. DILKE: With reference to the last question, I have, of course, seen the statement published in the newspapers, but we have not yet received the report of Lord Lyons on the subject. As to the question on the paper communications are passing between the two Governments on the subject of the Treaties stated to have been made by M. de Brazza, but the correspondence is not yet in a state for publication.

Sir H. HOLLAND intimated that to-morrow he will ask the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether it is true that urgency has been voted in the French Chamber to enable the Government to ratify the De Brazza treaty.

IRELAND.

In answer to questions from Mr. Parnell, Mr. TREVELYAN said the information before the permanent officials of the Local Government Board did not lead them to the belief that the means of relief existing under the present system would be insufficient to meet the anticipated distress in Ireland, and Mr. Gladstone said the Government had no present intention of dealing with the Arrears Act. Mr. Parnell gave notice that on Thursday he will put further questions on both points.

In answer to Mr. Yorke, Mr. GLADSTONE repeated his assurance that if possible he would break off the debate before 12.30, so as to let in the motion with regard to the so-called "Kilmainham Treaty." Lord R. Churchill thereupon called the attention of the Chair to the fact that Mr. Labouchere (presumably with the object of blocking Mr. Yorke's motion) had put down notices on almost every day up to December 1, which were, in fact, identical, and which related in one form or other to Mr. Bradlaugh's case. Mr. Labouchere disputed this description, and the Speaker said that though the motions were not identical, they were so much alike that if one were negatived, the others could not be put, and the course was extremely inconvenient, if not irregular. Lord R. Churchill thereupon asked Mr. Labouchere whether on this intimation he would not withdraw his motions, but there was a loud cry of "No" from below the gangway, and Mr. Labouchere did not give any audible reply.

PROCEDURE RESOLUTIONS.

The House then took up the Procedure Resolutions, and resumed the consideration of the 12.30 Rule. Sir H. Holland moved to add a further limitation—that the notice of opposition must be signed by six members, and renewed every week. Lord R. Churchill moved to substitute three for six. A long discussion ensued, and in the course of it Mr. Rylands eulogised the "blockers" as public benefactors, and Mr. Watson and Mr. Biggar justified the practice. In the end, after the number "six" had been negatived by 147 to 39, and the number "three" by 126 to 52, the amendment was agreed to in a form suggested by Mr. Gladstone, that the notice of opposition should be signed by a member and dated, and should lapse at the end of the week following.

On the motion of Mr. Rogers, the nomination of Select Committees was exempted from the Rule.

After this there was another conversation on the "long hours," arising on a motion made by Mr. E. Clarke to bring the sittings to a close at 1.30 a.m. The Attorney-General repeated the argument that such a compulsory arrangement would assist obstruction, talking against time, etc.; and on a division the amendment was negatived by 76 to 33. The Standing Order as amended was then carried by 100 to 22.

The ninth Resolution deals with the Standing Order passed in 1880 by Sir S. Northcote, giving a power of suspension for wilful and persistent obstruction; and Mr. Gladstone, in introducing it to the House, pointed out that its operation was not to accelerate business, but to punish individual offences; and, to be of any service, it must be made more stringent. He proposed, therefore, that the first suspension should be for a week, the second for a month, and the third for the rest of the Session.

Sir R. Cross regretted that the Government had not laid more stress on the method of dealing penally with individual offenders, and that they had preferred to punish the mass for the offences of the few. Although the present occupants of the Treasury Bench had scoffed at the order when it was passed, they had found it very useful, and it had worked very well; but he regretted Mr. Gladstone's proposed increased stringency as monstrous.

Mr. GORST then moved an amendment requiring that the case of each member shall be dealt with separately, by inserting the word "individual."

Mr. GLADSTONE admitted the importance of the point, but doubted whether this amendment would carry it out, and Mr. Parnell, in supporting it, animadverted on Mr. Playfair's use of the Standing Order to suspend a number of members *en masse*—which, he maintained, had never been intended when it was passed. But, after this precedent, the Standing Order, as amended, would enable a Government to get rid of the whole body of their opponents.

The discussion was continued for some time, and Mr. Chaplin, Sir W. Barttelot, Colonel Stanley, Lord J. Manners, and Sir R. Cross pressed the Government to give the House some intimation of their views as to the collective application of the rule—the three latter speakers, as members of the late Cabinet, stating that when it was drawn it was not intended to bear this interpretation.

On the other side, Lord HARTINGTON, while admitting that other parts of the amended rule were open to consideration, asserted that the Government was not committed to parting with the power of collective application, while Mr. Dodson and the Attorney-General maintained that the proper time for the Government to state its intentions was on an amendment which really raised the question. In the end, however, it was stated by the Home Secretary and Mr. Chamberlain that the Government would abandon the doctrine of constructive obstruction, and would agree to a proviso that two members shall not be named at the same time unless several members have concurred in the act for which they are named. Mr. Gorst then withdrew his amendment, and at 10 minutes past 12 o'clock Mr. Gladstone moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. LABOUCHERE opposed the motion in a discursive speech, in the course of which Resolution 2 and Resolution 5 were invoked against him, and he was three times called to order by the Speaker. Mr. Collins, Mr. Mellor, and Mr. Causton also strongly protested against an adjournment at so early an hour for the purpose of considering Mr. Yorke's motion, but as soon as the hour of 12.30 was reached the opposition collapsed, and the adjournment was agreed to without a division.

The House adjourned at 25 minutes to 1 o'clock.

THE POPE AND IRISH CRIME.—The *Freeman's Journal* states that during an interview with the Bishops of Down and Achonry the Pope expressed his horror at the crimes and outrages in Ireland, and charged the Bishops to exert themselves to guide the people and prevent them from offending against the laws.

SIGNS IN THE HEAVENS.

The extraordinary Meteorological Phenomena which are recorded from almost every part of the Kingdom form a fitting finale to a month of what even at this wintry period, must be regarded as unseasonable weather for our latitudes. For fully four weeks past there has been little intermission in the wild gales which have swept over the country, and have littered with wrecks the shores of Great Britain and the Continent as far south as the Bay of Biscay. The little sunshine which has now and then broken through the leaden sky has been succeeded by showers of hail, snow, rain, or sleet; and though the air has been dismally raw and rheumatic, we have rarely been favoured by even the qualified blessing of a black frost. Under these circumstances there is some satisfaction in thinkiug that the blame can for once be laid on something else than our much maligned climate. In support of this idea, scores of correspondents have published their observations of the curious phenomena which the November sky is displaying. Those who have been sufficiently happy to obtain a glimpse of the sun, describe his disc as marked with a spot of unusual magnitude. Some enthusiasts affirm that it is the largest on record; astronomers of more sober temperament are content to state their belief as to its being among the largest which they have seen. In any case, it is of enormous dimensions, since it was quite visible to the naked eye through Saturday's fog. As a matter of fact, the spot, or collection of spots, covers a superficial area of something like 2,356,846,000 square miles, and is 39,440 miles in breadth by 59,755 in length, so that it is an astronomical exaggeration to say that it is anything approaching the size of some which have been observed in comparatively recent times. One, for instance, which was visible in August, 1859, had a diameter of fifty-eight thousand miles; another, seen in June, 1843, attained the breadth of seventy-four thousand miles, or more than nine times the diameter of the earth. The largest spot, however, yet recorded was that observed fourteen years ago. Its diameter was one hundred and forty-four thousand miles, and it has been computed by geometricians curious in such calculations that the cavity then existing in the sun's surface-matter—to which, according to the received doctrine, the dark space was due—would "not have been more than filled by the substance of a hundred globes as large as our earth." But, even after making all deductions, the great spot now visible is of area ample enough to awe those who talk glibly of such objects without quite grasping their size measured by comparison with more familiar figures. The sun spot at present visible in reality consists of two portions, and the largest of these, considered apart from its "penumbra," the extent of which has been mentioned, is over twelve thousand miles, and its mean breadth five thousand four hundred and eighty. Hence, as the earth only attains a diameter of seven thousand nine hundred and twelve miles, the matter-of-fact individual who considers that our planet might fall through this gigantic depression, and yet leave two thousand miles clear space between itself and the edge of the cavity, states the simple language of prosaic truth.

Such a catastrophe in the sun affords ample room for almost any amount of speculation without the *embarras de richesses* of unwontedly brilliant auroras such as those which have lately appeared in the Northern sky, and a weird, strangely-shaped meteor which shot across it no later than Friday evening. The aurora was unusually bright at the time this strange "torpedo-shaped" luminous body passed majestically from East to West. The "meteor" is described as resembling "the gloss produced by an electric current passing through a vacuum;" in other words, there was no nucleus, and the illumination was perfectly uniform. Coincident with its appearance there was a "magnetic storm" of remarkable intensity. So violently were the telegraph and telephone wires deranged by the strong "earth currents" that, as happened during a somewhat similar electric gale last spring, their working was rendered impossible. The American electricians, who, equally with those on this side of the Atlantic, experienced this interruption to their labour, report the disturbance to be unlike anything previously known. It acted on the wires in violent waves, producing constant changes in the polarity of the current, and thus, of course, rendering their use quite impracticable. It was at the moment when the magnetic storm reached its intensity that the luminous body described sailed across the sky. At that period, a Sidmouth correspondent writes that the aurora was of an exquisite rose pink, which, however, gradually toned down, though even then the light resembled an immense conflagration, reddening the cloudless sky. During the passage of the "meteor"—which, doubtless, like the aurora, was electric in its origin—the block signalling apparatus was greatly affected, "two separate sections working at the same time, and the needle of the speaking instrument, instead of being read at vertical, was obliged to be read at an angle of forty-five." The block bells continued to ring during the progress of the object, and for some seconds after its disappearance, and the signals were so generally disarranged that it is singular how no accidents are recorded as happening during the storm which put the telegraph so completely out of use. When to all these phenomena is superadded the fact of the great comet which until recently displayed its beauties to early risers or late goers to bed, we possess the materials for one of those comprehensive debates on meteorological questions which now and then ruffle the surface of the scientific world, and even break on the shores of the more placid land inhabited by the "general reader."—*Standard.*

THREAT TO MURDER MR. GLADSTONE.

At Bow-street Police Court on Monday morning, a man giving the name of John Norris Sanders, aged fifty-three, of 11, Tyndall-buildings, Gray's-inn-road, described as a waiter, was brought up in custody of Inspector Lansdowne, of Scotland-yard, charged with sending a letter threatening to murder Mr. Gladstone. Chief-Superintendent Williamson, of Scotland-yard, watched the case. Inspector Lansdowne deposed that shortly after five p.m. on the 18th inst. he saw the prisoner at the address given, a common lodging-house. The witness showed him the letter forming the subject of the present charge, which read as follows:—"November 16. Sir,—On every occasion whenever your great abilities and great high principles have been questioned, I have endeavoured to remove ill-formed opinions and prejudice, and place your actions in the most favourable light. All my views are changed as regards your conduct, and I have come to the conclusion that you must die.—J. N. SANDERS, 11, Tyndall-buildings, Gray's-inn-road." The witness asked the prisoner if he had written the letter. He said, "Yes, I wrote that letter, and sent it, and I did so to bring my case before the public." The witness took him into custody, and in reply to the charge of threatening to murder, he said, "No, not to murder him." On the way to the station he said: "I was in the Land Transport Corps in the Crimea. I was servant to Colonel Brackenbury, and deserted some time after. I was apprehended, tried by court-martial and acquitted, my identity not being sufficient. I then went to live with the proprietress of several lodging-houses. I had twelve months' imprisonment for assaulting her. I also had twelve months in Holloway Gaol for threats. Since 1867 I have been in several lunatic asylums. I have been examined by Dr. Gibson, of Newgate Prison, who gave evidence that I was a dangerous lunatic." He also stated that he had been a waiter at the

Galignani's Messenger.

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LONDON, NOVEMBER 21—22, 1882.

THE PROCEDURE DEBATE.

If the progress made in the House of Commons on Tuesday night with the New Procedure Rules was not altogether satisfactory, the fault lies rather with Ministers than with members. The responsibility of prolonging the debate upon the Ninth Resolution rests indisputably with the Government. They might perfectly well have made, with no loss of dignity to themselves, and with great economy of the public time, the two concessions to which they consented on Tuesday night, on Monday, and thus a whole evening's talk would have been spared. There was nothing so novel or convincing in the arguments put forward by the opponents of the New Rule on Tuesday that ought not to have been foreseen by the Government. All the conditions under which protracted discussion, if not obstruction, is justifiable and even laudable, were realised upon the present occasion. The minority formulated specific requirements. These were refused by the Government. The Opposition did not relax its urgency, and finally Ministers yielded to its importunity. This is not the only significant feature in Mr. Gladstone's latest surrender. The Procedure Resolutions, so far as they yet go, may be divided into two heads—one relating to obstruction by a Party, for which the remedy is the clôture; the second dealing with obstruction by individuals, for which the antidote is suspension. It is now tolerably clear that the machinery which is to prevent and punish offences falling under the latter of these two categories would be adequate to check those falling under the former. But we know, from the language employed by various Ministerialists, that the new Procedure Rules is not so much to put down personal obstruction as to facilitate legislation. For this reason it was necessary for the Government to provide for the silencing of a Party *en masse*, as well as for suppressing inconveniently pertinacious individuals. Moreover, precisely in proportion as the more drastic forms of the Clôture are general in their operation, less offensive they will seem in particular and isolated instances. The calculation of the Government obviously is that the First Resolution will do all that is wanted, and that the remainder may, with some exceptions, be suffered to be inactive. The importance of the Irish vote to Ministers is increasing, and they have a better chance of not alienating it by dealing with obstruction through the comprehensive agency of the First Resolution—the Clôture—than by applying the penal Clauses of the Ninth to Mr. Parnell's more irrepressible followers.—*Standard.*

THE MAAMSTRASNA MURDERS.

Commenting on the trial and conviction of the murderers of the Joyce family, the *Daily Telegraph* says:—A crime like theirs strikes ordinary English minds as something utterly foreign to their experience. There is first of all the strange place where the murders were prepetrated—a desolate hill country, inhabited by nineteenth century savages; there is the remarkable fact that victims and murderers and witnesses for the prosecution were all related to one another. The Caseys and the Joyces were cousins, and the Anthony Joyce who gave the principal incriminating testimony was cousin of the Joyce who is to be hung. They are said to have constituted a sort of mountain clan, intermarrying and living their wild, lawless lives for generations, hardly ever seeing a priest or a doctor, and a schoolmaster never. Their language, too, cut them off still more from the influences of civilisation. Placed in the dock, they had to be provided with an interpreter, as they knew no tongue but their native Hibernian. But that which is most utterly alien to all our ideas, and the most deplorable and terrible feature about the massacres, is that this crime was carried out at the instigation of a "secret society." The actual cause of the murders is not yet cleared up, but it is reasonably supposed that the Joyces who were slaughtered were acquainted with the names of the men who had previously murdered Ardilaun's two bailiffs near Lough Mask. There must have been a fear lest they would "split" upon the assassins, and so, to save the lives of these villains, the decree went forth that the whole household was to be exterminated. The aged grandmother, the helpless daughter, the little child—none were spared. We have known, to our shame be it said, murders as dreadful in England, but none that have been the result of commands issued with fiendish cruelty by an executive committee of assassination. If the trial and condemnation of those who have been already sentenced should, therefore, lead to the discovery of the perpetrators of that other deed of blood, the murder of the Huddys near Lough Mask, nobody need feel at all surprised. It will be great matter for congratulation if such should really be the case. By this time, from the materials placed in their hands by various informers, the Government must be in possession of some exceedingly valuable private information with regard to the mainspring of the blood conspiracy in Ireland. If they have not yet got their hands on the throat of the monster, they must be ready to grapple with it as soon as the murderers of Lord Frederick Cavendish and Mr. Burke are revealed to them. As yet it cannot be surmised that the chief actors in the awful occurrence in Phœnix Park are really known at Dublin Castle; for, if so, it is impossible to suppose that some arrests would not have been made before now. Little by little, however, the murder seems to be coming "out," and the chances of quietude in Ireland are greatly increased as each new trial leads to the condemnation of one or more assassins. The spectacle of the Dublin jury calmly and fearlessly finding verdicts of guilty against these Maamtrasna murderers cannot but be attended with salutary results on the minds of the more lawless of the people of Ireland. Each execution, where justice is felt to have been done, adds to the growing respect felt for the power of the law, and as such is a healthy medicine for the diseased state of society. It was nothing less than providential that Anthony Joyce, roused by the bark of a dog, should have heard the midnight band tramping along the road, and gone out to follow them, and that he and his brother, John Joyce, should have tracked them up to the Caseys' cottage, and thence to the scene of their unspeakable crime. What followed is only too well known. The door was battered in, shots and shrieks were heard within, and then there was a dreadful silence. No wonder that the horror-stricken onlookers turned and fled for their lives. No wonder, too, that the less guilty of the bloody band lost heart, and themselves took to their heels. It is difficult exactly to measure the moral guilt of the unhappy wretches who have been jointly condemned to die for this fearful crime against society. But the state of the country where such a crime can be coolly concocted and barbarously executed stands self-revealed. These men were the brute instruments in the hands of unscrupulous cruelty. They no more dared refuse their mission of murder than the African slave dares to disregard the thong of his driver. Legally and morally they are guilty of the offence of murder; but what is to be said of the far greater villains who used them as puppets, who have got off scot-free, and who have turned Ireland into a "hell of tyrants and of slaves?" At least we may be profoundly thankful that the foulest murder ever perpetrated in that country has also been most providentially discovered, and that signal vengeance has been wreaked on nearly the whole gang of bloodthirsty miscreants who took part in the horrid deed.

VICTOR HUGO.

Assuming that Victor Hugo would be present at the reproduction of *Le Roi s'Amuse*, after an interval of half a century, the *Daily News* says:—We need not wait for his death to pronounce him happy. He is the greatest man of letters since Goethe died, and he lives and displays himself on a stage far vaster than that of Weimar. We might almost call him more versatile than Goethe; but the German, with his science and his Teutonic classicism, could do things which Hugo has never attempted. Victor Hugo has excelled in lyric, dramatic, and narrative poetry. He has written novels which outthunder all the utterances of all other European authors of fiction, novels which have the glow of romance, and the great proportions and mighty movement of the epic. Besides these literary achievements he has made himself a political personage; and though his attitude towards the Empire was not much more of an attitude than a pose, still, in its French way, it was sublime. He was the Apostle John of the Empire; Jersey or Guernsey was his Patmos; his Apocalypse was in "those great curses which he spoke," and which he has lived to see fulfilled. Let us remember that while monarchs and Miss Mitford bowed down before France's "second shame and a fouler than her first one," two poets at least resisted the temptation to worship success. M. Hugo on his rock in the Channel was the centre of the hopes of exiles, and of men who would fain have France free. Mr. Tennyson, in our own country, warned us several times, with respect to our Imperial ally, that "only the Devil knows what he means." The weak side of Victor Hugo's political character is familiar and manifest to all men. He speaks unadvisedly, and not sensibly; he is carried away, as in his novels and plays, by his own rhetoric; he is always trying to state the riddle of the earth in an epigram, and to solve it with a *mot*. Not much light nor much warmth is to be extracted from his political sayings, any more than from those which Garibaldi uttered now and then in his old age. But Victor Hugo undoubtedly had the root of the matter. He gave up a great deal, and, unlike the King who bought Paris cheaply for a Mass, he abandoned her to keep his self-respect. Only a Frenchman knows how tremendous was that sacrifice. It was not made in vain, and now Victor Hugo is far the most illustrious man in the city from which he was so long a voluntary exile. We cannot hope that his blessings will be as rapidly fulfilled as his curses. The New Jerusalem will not immediately come down from heaven in the shape of a moral, theistic, and purified Paris. But Victor Hugo's political successes as a *vates sacer* have been sufficiently remarkable without the aid of miracles. As a lyric poet, M. Hugo is, we presume, far the greatest to whom France has given birth. It is not easy to remember French names that even come into comparison with his. The leader of the Romanticists of 1830, he restored all the sweet old musical measures of ancient France, all but the "forms," which were left for M. de Banville to resuscitate. He was a master of the harmonies of Ronsard and du Bellay, and he was quite free from their affectations and their quaint mythology. He restored, he invented measures, his volumes of lyrics are nests of singing birds of various voice, but all strong of wing. He brought back the clash of chivalrous arms in his song, he recalled the lullabies of childhood, the gay music of old rustic *rondes* and ballads. Like Byron, he brought into modern poetry the colour and passion of the East; while his landscapes are as happy as Mr. Tennyson's, and his skies and seas almost as luminous or stormy as the seas and skies of Shelley. Others may have been as great formal masters of one or two descriptions of verse. Victor Hugo probably could not have competed with the "Emaux et Camées" of Gautier in their own qualities of exquisite finish. There are notes in the song of Musset which we think Victor Hugo never reaches, and a kind of ardour, and fire, and strangeness in some of that poet's lines, a prodigal grace and abandonment, which are not within the scope of the greater and severer writer. But for volume and weight and variety, Hugo is quite unmatched among French poets, old or new. All the rest together, from Villon to Ronsard, from Rosnard to Chénier, from Chénier to Coppée do not give us, so to speak, the small change of Hugo. No English lyric poet, we think, has this supremacy, though Shakespeare might have claimed it, as far as we may judge from his sonnets and songs, had he looked that way. Probably Shelley is, of English poets, the one least remote from the sovereignty which Victor Hugo exercises in France. But when we compare Hugo's lyrics with those of our own greatest men it is natural for us, being Englishmen, to take more pleasure in Shelley, in Mr. Tennyson, in Keats, in our own native music.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Lord R. CHURCHILL asked Mr. Labouchere whether he had acted on the intimation of the Speaker with reference to his "block" notices to the Committee on the Kilmainham treaty, and Mr. Labouchere said he had asked the Clerk to take them off the paper. Mr. Yorke thereupon asked the Prime Minister whether his attention had been called to the manœuvres by which his motion had been met on the previous evening, and whether he would do his best to convince his followers that he really desired an inquiry.

Mr. GLADSTONE denied that he had ever challenged this inquiry, and, disclaiming all special knowledge of what happened the night before, expressed, nevertheless, an opinion that after those proceedings it would be a waste of time to move the adjournment of the debate again before the usual time.

PROCEDURE.

The consideration of the Standing Order for the punishment of wilful obstruction, etc., was resumed, and at the outset Mr. GORST moved to insert words requiring that a member must be present when he is named. In the course of a prolonged conversation some dissatisfaction was expressed with the manner in which the Government, on the previous evening, proposed to deal with the questions of constructive obstruction and collective suspension. Mr. Gladstone at first objected to Mr. Gorst's amendment, but ultimately he accepted words suggested by Sir John Hay securing that the "naming" should follow the offence immediately. Lord R. Churchill proposed that the member should be "warned" before being "named," but this was negatived by 185 to 53, as was also another proposal of his to omit the words "or otherwise" in the definition of the offence, by 90 to 48.

There was some conversation on proposals submitted by Mr. Gorst, Lord R. Churchill, and Mr. Macfarlane, to have the precise offence of the suspended member entered in detail in the votes, and to give him an opportunity of being heard in his own defence, but they came to nothing, and Mr. Newdegate then moved a scheme of his own for the punishment of offenders against order, which he claimed to be in accordance with the ancient usages of the House for the maintenance of discipline. The main feature was the immediate suspension of the offender for two nights, after which the House would deliberate and decide on the length of his suspension. Mr. Gladstone objected to it on the ground that it would give a new and powerful instrument of obstruction, and ultimately it was withdrawn. Mr. Gorst next made a proposal that when two or more members are named at once, amendments to omit the name of any such members should be allowed. Mr. Gladstone strongly opposed it, partly on the ground that the possibility of injustice was already, or will be, provided for, and partly because it would waste much time.

The point being debated at considerable length, the Government were strongly urged by Sir R. Cross, Mr. W. H. Smith, Mr. Parnell, Mr. Rylands, and others to abandon altogether the doctrine of collective obstruction, and ultimately Mr. Gladstone urged that the question should be raised on his proviso at the end of the clause. In the course of the debate, Colonel Nolan related an incident in the "collective suspension episode" of the earlier part in the Session, which he interpreted as an intimation from the Chair that if he voted with the obstructives on a pending division, even though he had not spoken, he would be suspended. Upon this, Lord R. Churchill animadverted severely on Mr. Playfair's conduct, and asked why he had been absent during these discussions, and Mr. Courtney said that the Chairman, would, of course, give his explanation of the incident. After a motion for adjournment had been negatived by 132 to 24, Mr. Gorst's amendment was negatived by 103 to 55.

Mr. GLADSTONE intimated, in reference to the scale of punishments, that he should be willing to mitigate the resolution so far as to make the suspension for the second offence a fortnight, and for the third a month.

The debate was then adjourned, and the House adjourned at 20 minutes to 1 o'clock.

THE QUEEN AND THE TROOPS.

DISTRIBUTION OF WAR MEDALS.

The ceremony of distributing war medals by the Queen to the successful Generals and representatives of the various branches of the Service who participated in the late Egyptian campaign took place on Tuesday, in the Quadrangle of Windsor Castle, and formed a scene of interest only second to the memorable review on Saturday last in St. James's Park. From an early hour all Windsor was alive with people pouring in from every direction. Fortunately, the weather was very fine, and the bright sun showed up with great effect the elaborate decorations with which the loyal inhabitants of the Royal borough, in response to the call of the Mayor, had liberally adorned the streets of Windsor.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, together with the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh and the Duke of Cambridge, reached Windsor by special train from Paddington about twelve o'clock, and drove directly to the Castle, which they entered by her Majesty's entrance. Meanwhile, everything was getting in readiness in the quadrangle, a guard of honour of the 1st Battalion of Grenadier Guards, under the command of Colonel Bertie, with the full band of the regiment, having marched in and taken up positions on the right flank of the assembled troops. The Indians, who, like all others, were in full uniform, nearly every man having a number of medals or other decorations, were then marched to the extreme left. When all were in their places there was a short pause, and men were allowed to disperse for a few minutes prior to the great event of the day. Now the sight was, indeed, a remarkable one, the grand intermixture of colour realising a kaleidoscopic scene of extraordinary beauty. Scarlet and gold with white feathers contrasted with the business-like blue of the Naval Brigade and Artillery, and the sun was reflected back equally from the glistening helmets of the Royal Irish Dragoons and Household Cavalry and the cuirasses of the latter, as well as from the scabbards of swords worn by troopers and the rows of medals that adorned so many gallant breasts. Shortly after twelve o'clock the bugle sounded the "Assembly," and instantly every one fell into his place ready for the ceremony. The Naval Brigade were headed by Admiral Sir W. Dowell, Sir F. Sullivan, Sir Anthony Hoskins, Captain Rawson, and Captain D'Arcy Irvine. The first line was composed entirely of officers, with the staff on the right. In the second line were the representatives in order of the 19th Hussars, 7th Dragoon Guards, 4th Dragoon Guards, Royal Horse Artillery, N Battery A Brigade, and G Battery B Brigade, 1st and 2d Life Guards, Royal Horse Guards (Blue), the Stafford Regiment (38th), Sussex Regiment (35th), Cornwall Regiment (46th), Royal Irish Regiment (18th), Grenadier Guards, the Coldstream Guards, the Scots Guards, the Royal Engineers, A and C Troops, Field-park, and 86th and 24th Companies Royal Artillery, 5th and 6th Batteries First Brigade (Scottish Division), 4th Battery First Brigade, the London Division, and the Garrison Artillery, Berkshire Regiment (49th), West Kent Regiment (50th), Shropshire Regiment (53d), 3d Battalion of the King's Royal Rifles (60th), the Manchester Regiment (63d), the York and Lancaster Regiment (84th), the Highland Light Infantry (74th), the Seaforth Highlanders (72d), the Gordon Highlanders (75th), the Cameron Highlanders (79th), the Irish Fusiliers (87th), the Mounted Rifles, represented by a couple of men of the West Kent Regiment, the Commissariat and Transport Corps, the Army Hospital Corps, Military mounted and foot police, four men of the Royal Malta Fencibles, and two of the Army Postal Corps. The men of the Seaforth Highlanders wore the Stuart tartan trousers and white helmet, but the officers were in the kilt and feathered bonnet, which is the future full dress of the regiment. Around the quadrangle the public, who were admitted by ticket only, were assembled on the northern side, and not allowed to trespass beyond the path, but much colour was given to the groups by the presence of the Mayor and Corporation of Windsor in their scarlet robes of office, and the Naval and Military Knights of Windsor in picturesque uniform and nodding plumes.

At half-past twelve there was a movement near the Royal entrance to the quadrangle, outside where a small pavilion, decorated with the Royal coat of arms had been erected, and underneath the canopy standing a table with the well-won medals lying upon it. Exactly as the clock struck her Majesty passed through the doors, and was greeted with a loud cheer from the assembled spectators, while the band played "God Save the Queen," and the guard of honour and all the naval and military men present saluted. The Queen was accompanied by the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, the Duke and Duchess of Albany, Princess Beatrice, the Duchess of Connaught, the Duke of Cambridge, the Duchess of Teck, and was attended by General Sir H. Ponsonby, General Sir J. Cowell, and other members of the suite. The Prince of Wales was in the full uniform of a Field Marshal, the Duke of Edinburgh in that of Rear-Admiral. On reaching the dais the Queen was received by Mr. Childers, the Secretary of War, Lord Northbrook (the First Lord of the Admiralty), and General Sir Garnet Wolseley, and conducted to the front, where her Royal sons and daughters surrounded her. As the last notes of the National Anthem closed,

Her Majesty, in a clear voice, addressing the troops gathered closely in front of her, said—"I have summoned you here to-day to confer upon you the well-earned medals in commemoration of the short and brilliant, although arduous campaign, in which all have done their duty well and with courageous and undaunted devotion. Tell your comrades that I thank them heartily for the brilliant services they have rendered to their Queen and country, and that I am proud of my soldiers and sailors, who have added fresh glories to the victories won by their predecessors." At the close of this brief but telling address, the three lines of officers and men retired, wheeling to the right and leaving her Majesty facing the Commander of the Egyptian Expedition and the Naval Brigade. Then came the beginning of the principal event. Sir Garnet stepped up to the dais and as the band of the Grenadiers broke forth with the first lines of Handel's famous hymn, "See the Conquering Hero Comes," the Queen of England and Empress of India pinned yet another to the grand row of medals that stud the breast of the chief hero of the day so thickly. After the General had been decorated there was a pause for a moment or two, and then the Naval Brigade were called up, headed by Admiral Dowell. Bluejackets and Marines were alike received cordially, but the smallness of the company present prevented anything like the demonstration there would have been had the ceremony been a thoroughly public one. Following the Naval Brigade came the representatives of the Army, first to present himself being Sir John Adye, next in order coming Generals Willis and Sir E. Hamley, the commanders of the First and Second Divisions of Infantry in Egypt. Then it was the turn of the Duke of Connaught to receive his first decoration earned on the actual field. His Royal Highness, who was conspicuous by the blue ribbon of the Garter across his scarlet tunic, stepped up to the dais and gracefully saluted his Royal mother, who, before pinning the medal on his breast, affectionately kissed him. After his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught succeeded three heroes of the Victoria Cross, Major-General Macpherson, Major-General Sir Evelyn Wood, and Sir John Carstairs M'Neill, the last-named of whom, like the Duke of Teck, who followed a few minutes later, had the honour of kissing hands with the Queen. The succeeding group of officers to receive their medals included Colonel Butler, Sir Oriel Tanner (who wore the green tunic and red pantaloons of the Beloochees), Major FitzGeorge, and Colonel Tulloch, the last-named of whom, it will be remembered, gallantly swam ashore with the party at Alexandria to spike the guns, and is the only man in the Army with the clasps both for the bombardment of the latter place and the battle of Tel-el-Kebir. It may be mentioned that the ships represented by the naval branch were the *Penelope*, *Northumberland*, *Agincourt*, *Achilles*, *Carysfort*, *Alexandria*, and *Minotaur*. Her Majesty pinned all the medals on the breasts of the Head-quarter Staff and General officers, using a new fastening that has been invented to facilitate the fixture, and handed the medals to the remainder of the force, until the Indian Contingent, who, led by Colonel Pennington and Captain MacBay, came last. The Queen, who was evidently deeply interested in her Indian soldiers, and asked many questions regarding them, personally fastened the medal on the breast of each of the dusky warriors, afterwards touching the hilt of the officers' swords before they saluted. The order in which they came up was:—2d Bengal Cavalry, 6th Bengal Cavalry, 13th Bengal Lancers, 7th Bengal Infantry, 10th Punjaub, and 29th Beloochees. As with stately steps the Indians passed from the Empress of India to their places in the ranks, they were again loudly applauded.

At the close of the distribution to the British troops, Baron Von Hagenau, the Prussian military attaché to the expeditionary force, had the honour of an introduction to the Queen, and was decorated with the medal. With the conclusion of the interesting ceremony, her Majesty, with the Royal Princes and Princesses, retired from the Quadrangle, the band again playing the National Anthem, and every one saluting. The officers were subsequently entertained at luncheon in the Waterloo Gallery, while the men were marched by Castle-hill to the Riding House, where dinner was provided for them. Later in the afternoon the Royal Prince and Princesses and others returned to their various destinations, Sir Garnet Wolseley, Sir John Ayde, and many of the principal officers remaining at Windsor as the guests of her Majesty. It is understood that it is her Majesty's intention to personally confer further distinctions in connection with the Egyptian campaign on Friday next, at Windsor.

THE MEDICAL OFFICERS FROM EGYPT.

A banquet of welcome was given on Tuesday night to the medical officers of the Egyptian Expedition at Willis's Rooms by members of the medical profession in London. There were nearly 300 guests present, including upwards of 60 army and navy surgeons. The band of the Grenadier Guards, under the leadership of Mr. Dan Godfrey, played a selection of music during dinner. The chair was occupied by Sir William Jenner, Bart., K.C.B., who was supported by the Earl of Morley and Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, M.P. The vice-chairs were occupied by Sir J. Paget, Bart., Sir W. W. Gull, Bart., Dr. Andrew Clark, Dr. Quain, Dr. A. Carpenter, Sir H. Thompson, Mr. Lister, Mr. Ernest Hart, and Mr. P. Hewett.

The Chairman read letters from the Duke of Cambridge, Sir Garnet Wolseley, and Mr. Childers, from which the following are extracts:—

The Duke of Cambridge wrote:—"I have received your letter of invitation to the public dinner to be given at Willis's Rooms on Tuesday, the 21st, by the medical profession. I should gladly have availed myself of this opportunity of showing my interest and cordial support to the Medical Department of the Army and to the medical profession at large; for I am well aware how closely and intimately our mutual professions are connected, and how impossible it is for the army to exist without the skilull aid of our medical friends. I am unfortunately engaged on the day named, and so canno avail myself of your kind proposal. Had I been present I should certainly have assured the medical officers of the army that I highly appreciated their valuable aid and good work during the recent short but trying campaign." (Cheers.)

Sir Garnet Wolseley wrote:—"I have just received her Majesty's commands for me to dine at Windsor on Tuesday next, the day when you did me the honour to invite me to dine with the medical profession to meet the army medical officers returning from Egypt. It is a real disappointment to me that I am thus prevented from having the pleasure of taking part in an entertainment intended to do honour to those whose services and whose devotion to their military duties are so highly appreciated by the army. There may be diversity of opinion as to the value of our military medical system of administration, but all who are acquainted with the work done by our system in the field will, I think, freely admit that individually none are more devoted to their duty than those who are to be your guests next Tuesday" (cheers).

Mr. Childers wrote:—"It would have given me great pleasure to accept the invitation enclosed, but the state of my health is such that I am unable to take part in any entertainments of a public character, and I have already refused other entertainments for the 21st. I extremely regret this, or I should have specially wished to do honour, as far as lay in me, to the medical officers who served in Egypt with so much distinction and ability" (cheers).

The usual loyal toasts having been given,

Sir James Paget proposed "The Navy, Army, and Auxiliary Forces," and remarked that while science was being applied to the purposes of war, so that there was not so much of man to man fighting as formerly, an equal amount of scientific skill was being expended on the sick and wounded. They were proud of the men of their profession who, along with their scientific and medical knowledge, showed, as members of the Army Medical Department, courage, self-denial, and perfectly complete endurance for their country's good whenever they were at war (cheers).

The Earl of Morley, in replying, said he spoke as one occupying a position in the War Office, and as Chairman of a Committee appointed to inquire into the medical arrangements of the army. He wished it to be particularly understood that this was not a new Committee; it was appointed more than nine months ago, principally with regard to the improvement of the Army Hospital Corps. On the conclusion of the recent campaign in Egypt the Secretary of State for War thought it was a fit opportunity for utilising the experience gained in that campaign. In no sense, therefore, was the Committee appointed to inquire into the conduct of individuals or of the Department generally. The whole object of the inquiry was to thoroughly sift the evidence they could get as to our present medical arrangements for war, and he was quite sure there would be a great deal of evidence from all quarters. He spoke for himself and his distinguished colleagues, some of whom he saw present, with perfect impartiality. They were anxious for the good of the service, and as far as they could to perfect the organisation of the Medical Department of the Army. (Cheers.) Apart from the letter read from Sir Garnet Wolseley, very many officers of the highest distinction had testified to the zeal and untiring energy of the Medical Department throughout the campaign. (Cheers.)

Mr. Campbell-Bannerman also responded, and warmly eulogised the manner in which the men of all ranks in the Navy had performed their varied duties. As to the Medical Officers, he could only say for himself and his colleagues in the Admiralty how much they appreciated their great services; how anxious they were to ensure, by every means in their power, their perfect efficiency; and how gratified they were to find their services recompensed and acknowledged by a public demonstration of this sort on the part of the members of their profession. (Cheers.)

At this stage of the proceedings Mr. E. Eastes read the following telegram:—"From Dr. Von. Lauer, General Staff Surgeon to the Army and Honorary President of the Society.—The members of the Berlin Army Medical Society now sitting send greeting to the Medical Officers of the British army returned from the war and present at the banquet given at Willis's Rooms."

The following reply was sent:—"From Sir William Jenner.—The Medical Officers of the Egyptian Expedition now present at Willis's Rooms return their hearty thanks for the good wishes just received from their brethren at Berlin."

The Chairman, in giving the toast of the evening, "The Medical Officers of the Egyptian Expedition," said all honour should be rendered to those who acted as medical officers in that expedition under such trying circumstances. None but those of the medical profession could appreciate the trials and difficulties which they had to undergo—their troubles in sanitary matters, their hospital difficulties, and their surgical trials. The profession alone could judge of the skill and judgment displayed in meeting them. (Cheers.) It might seem faint praise to say that they did their duty; but it was not faint praise when they remembered that duty meant the bringing to their work of the whole of their mental and moral as well as physical power. (Cheers.)

Staff-Surgeon E. E. Mahon and Deputy-Surgeon General Ekin having replied,

Deputy-Surgeon General Marston, in likewise acknowledging the toast, defended his department against criticisms which had been passed upon it, and said that actual and real hardship told upon the health of wounded and sick men. But when he told them that from the 23d August to the 29th September, 2,800 men, wounded and sick, some of them very sick and some of them very badly wounded, passed through their hands, and that the percentage of mortality in that number was six per thousand, he need not vindicate his department in their presence. One half man died per month per hundred, or in other words one man in 200, or six men per cent. per annum. (Cheers.) If they put on one side of the picture all the defects and privations, and added them up and multiplied them by ten, and then on the other side, acting on the political principle of the greatest good to the greatest number, if they took the amount of positive good that had been done, he really thought that under the circumstances under which they were placed there never was more comprehensive, varied, responsible, or, on the whole, successful medical services rendered to the Army. (Cheers.)

Depety-Surgeon General Colvin Smith also responded; and the toasts of the "Non-Medical Guests" and "The Chairman" concluded the proceedings.

BURNED TO DEATH IN A LIME KILN.—Abraham Burgess, a man about fifty years of age, has met with a terrible death at Winsford, near Torrington, Devon. He was employed by Mr. Corner, at the Pym Lime Quarries, and was left as usual in charge of the kiln, which was filled with limestone. Next morning he was missing, and on a search being made at the kiln, a few remains of what appeared like a human body were found lying on the lime. Even these were so burnt that but for the fact that a belt and some money were found with them, there was no possibility of identification. A stove kept at the kiln is missing, and it is believed that deceased took the stove into the kiln to eat his dinner, was overcome by the fumes, and so was burnt to death.

LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM "THE WORLD.")

When the Queen was leaving for Paddington *en route* for Windsor after the inspection, her Majesty's escort arrived at the arch of Constitution Hill just as the last regiments were coming up to St. George's Hospital. It became a doubt which would halt; but the Queen quickly decided the matter, and drew up so that she might again see the troops, and the effect was wonderfully bright as the flashing helmets of the escort, with the Royal carriages, stood on the hill while the soldiers were passing along the road below, and the enthusiastic cheers of the multitude were redoubled.

Another little incident of the day was that, after leaving the Parade-ground and taking leave of the Queen, the Princess of Wales with her daughters and the Duke of Edinburgh (afterwards joined by the Duchess) took up their station on the pavement just at the bottom of St. James's-street, and stood there almost unnoticed while the troops passed that spot. A foreigner was much struck when told who it was. There are not many countries where a Royal princess could or would stand among the people so fearlessly, and in such perfect safety.

Mrs. Childers's party on Saturday night was at one moment crowded to suffocation, and the temperature almost unbearable, though the warriors seasoned by the Egyptian campaign pronounced it "just comfortable." When circulation was in some measure restored, it became very animated and enjoyable, as the early *réunions* of London society invariably are, before the languor of "the season" supervenes. The Royal Family were largely represented, and dispensed kind compliments and congratulations upon the heroes who had taken part in the day's pageant. The Princess of Wales wore black-and-gold brocaded velvet, with a high Medici collar at the back of the neck. Black was worn by the Crown Princess of Germany and the Duchess of Teck. The Duchess of Edinburgh had a low dress of light blue, and the Duchess of Connaught wore crimson velvet and silk. Not the least picturesque figures were the tall and "kaftaned" ressaldars of the Indian Contingent, upon whose tawny faces might be read the keenest interest and intelligence.

"Cherchez la femme" is an old saw I did not expect to be revived in connection with the Kilmainham Treaty. But the accredited organ of the Fourth Party quotes it boldly as apposite to that most mysterious transaction, and the peculiar relations between the free lances of Toryism and Mr. Parnell give them some title to special information. Will Mr. Reginald Yorke examine the not impossible *she* as a witness before the committee, and let the world know who is the "divine Althea," whose whisper at the prison gates bore the terms of the treaty from Kilmainham to Downing-street *viâ* Eltham?

The death of the Hon. Mrs. Bernard Maxwell, in her first confinement, is a sad finale to what promised to be one of the happiest marriages of last season. The large fortune the beautiful American heiress brought her husband is settled on the infant son who has cost her her life. The sad event has cast a deep gloom over the house of Herries and its kindred homes, where the deceased lady had made a place in all hearts.

Richmond is about to experience the curse which has done so much harm to Greenwich. As the end and aim of a pleasant drive its days are numbered. The infernal tramway has marked the pretty suburb for its own, and already one of the roads of approach—that *viâ* Kew—is being prepared for the reception of the rails, and is in a state of impassable slush from Hammersmith New-road to Richmond town.

I mind the time when there were always fifty or sixty vehicles—drags, barouches, broughams, dog-carts, etc.—outside the Trafalgar or the Crown and Sceptre at Greenwich on a fine Sunday evening. Now you never see one. The hotel-keepers will tell you that by the establishment of the tram-road, which has put an end to all private vehicular traffic, they are losers to the extent of £7,000 a year. This is what will happen to Richmond. Where was that vestry Hampden, Mr. John Maxwell, that he did not oppose these insatiable speculators?

The Prime Minister's grant from the Crown of one hundred and fifty pounds to the most venerable actress living—Frances Maria Kelly, now in her ninety-third year—is a graceful tribute to the dramatic art, and one that will be heartily appreciated by every member of the profession. Bearing in mind that we are approaching the close of 1882, it is startling to remember that Miss Kelly actually made her first appearance on the boards of Drury Lane before the end of the last century. For it was in the December of 1799 that, as a little creature nine years old, she took part in her uncle Michael Kelly's operatic spectacle of *Bluebeard*. Curiously enough, upon the same occasion Edmund Kean, who was three years her senior, also first faced a London audience. To realise the effect of perspective in the grand scene of the entertainment, an ingeniously arranged winding procession advanced from the very back of the stage, represented in the distance by doll figures, intermediately by children, and eventually in front of the footlights by the adult actors. It was in the children's part of the procession that Bluebeard, mounted upon a miniature elephant, was enacted by the future tragedian, little Fanny Kelly, with a drawn scimitar in her grasp, tripping before him among the ranks of his retainers. Miss Kelly, in the earlier part of this century, enjoyed for thirty-six years the highest repute as an actress on the boards of Drury Lane, Covent Garden, the Haymarket, and the English Opera-house, in association with many illustrious contemporaries, conspicuous among whom were Mrs. Siddons, John Kemble, Edmund Kean, Munden, and Mrs. Jordan. Let me add what will give to this venerable lady even greater interest in the eyes of many, that she was the intimate friend of "Lamb, the frolic and the gentle," that she was the "Barbara S." of the *Essays of Elia*, and the subject of two of his sonnets.

Mr. Tennyson's character of Philip Edgar in *The Promise of May* has been condemned as unfair to atheists. How grossly these cultivated and urbane people have been libelled by the Poet Laureate is evident from the following sentences of courteous and dignified comment which I extract from Saturday's issue of the *Secular Review*:—

> The office of Court fool has been abolished; but the office of Court poet still obtains (*sic*), and is filled by one Alfred Tennyson, who is possibly considered big enough and ambidexterous enough to play the *rôle* of both poet and fool. . . We are a great and gifted people. We put, in a single fortnight, as much money into the purse of Sarah Bernhardt as we put into that of Thomas Carlyle during the whole of his long life; and, meantime, we are starving a few minstrels who really can sing, and we are filling with gold the pockets of this senile Court pensioner, who has burdened himself lately with the function of deprecating atheists, and who evidently knows as much about atheism as a tom-cat does (*sic*) about lunar politics, or as a hedgehog knows about the integral and differential calculus.

In these graceful sentences Mr. Charles Watts, the editor of the *Secular Review*, has done the "senile Court pensioner" a good turn. They provide a crushing answer to the critics who have called Edgar a caricature.

The deaths of Mr. Clare Vyner and Mr. F. Gretton remove two very strong contrasts from the Turf microcosm. The tall distinguished figure of the one will be much missed at Newmarket and at all the north-country meetings next season, though latterly he was unable, from the state of his health, to be much about. With only a small stud, not a heavy bettor, or a great buyer, he yet was one of those men that the Turf can ill spare. He was a sportsman *pur sang*. Mr. Gretton took to racing as he took to brewing. It was a business with him; and if it was not a profitable one, it was not his fault. The irony of Turf fortune—luck—call it what

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NOTICE.

A Four-page Supplement is published with this day's number of the MESSENGER, *and will be delivered gratis with each copy of the paper. It contains our American news and an interesting variety of literary extracts.*

Great Britain.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 22—23, 1882.

AN EPIDEMIC OF ANNEXATION.

Quite an epidemic of annexation seems to have broken out in France. "French interests" are cropping up in the most unexpected quarters, and French commerce is endangered in places of which many geographers have hitherto failed to take cognisance. Savage chiefs, for whose ethnic relations we in vain search the manuals of anthropology, appear to be consumed with an engrossing passion for becoming suffragans of the French Republic. True, the earth is broad, and kinglets are numerous on the Dark Continent. Without, therefore, drawing on tribes whose existence is about as mythical as that of the Tunisian Kroumirs, our amiable neighbours find ample material on which to exercise this propensity for enlarging their boundaries at the expense of those belonging to other people. Tunis only whetted the Gallic earth hunger, for, regardless of the complications which the seizure of the Regency precipitated, schemes have been mooted which, had they been carried out, would have entailed the "protection" or annexation of the better part of unappropriated Africa. The death of Colonel Flatters discouraged the advocates of the Trans-Saharan Railway from Tripoli to Timbuctoo, but already a project is on foot to build a road through Senegal, so as to tap the trade of the Upper Nigretian Kingdom, into the French West African Colonies, and deprive Sierra Leone of what flows in that direction. M. de Brazza's "Treaty" with the Congoese "King" Makoko, the absurdity of which might have sufficed to laugh it out of court, has actually been confirmed by M. Grévy's Government, and Urgency was promptly voted for pushing through the Chamber the Bill necessary to give it legal effect. The Malagasy Envoys have been refused a hearing except on the condition that they acknowledge—Treaty or no Treaty—French sovereign rights over an important section of Madagascar. The Empire of Anam has been virtually absorbed, and now that the transparent "protectorate" of Tahiti has been exchanged for actual possession, efforts are being made to put the neighbouring cities under French control. Raiatea, one of the Society group, has been annexed in a very high-handed manner, and the independence of Hualiene, Bora-Bora, the Austral Isles, and the Herveys, is threatened. It is even more serious to learn from our Paris correspondent that M. Soleillet, one of the new knight-errants who are roaming around in search of unprotected places, has taken possession of the Bay of Tajurrah, on the East Coast of Africa; that Mzab, an independent territory to the extreme south of Algeria, has been incorporated with that Colony; and that M. Wiener, Vice-Consul in Guayaquil, has discovered French interests on the head water of the Amazon to be in danger from English interference. Such a pronounced flavour of burlesque pervades these *coups de théâtre*, that under ordinary circumstances they might provoke a smile at the loose discipline exercised over officials whose zeal is permitted to outrun their judgment. Unfortunately, however, the question has a more serious aspect; for even the most outrageous of the acts we have enumerated have received the approval of the French people, Press, and Parliament. It is clear, therefore, that we must reckon with realities. M. de Brazza's proceedings we have already fully criticised. This gentleman, a young officer in the French Navy, was despatched to Africa at the instance, and partly at the expense, of the International Committee for conducting explorations in that Continent. Conquest, annexation, or political aggrandisement was strictly forbidden by the very terms of the compact entered into by the different nations participating in the scheme inaugurated by King Leopold, which had for its main purpose the introduction of civilisation and Christianity among the savage tribes of the interior. Already Mr. Stanley had been labouring with these objects in view when M. de Brazza arrived in the country. After years of weary toil the explorer of the Congo had constructed a road round the cataracts of the River, established trading stations at intervals as far as the "Pool" named in his honour, and gradually conciliated the wild tribes with whom he came in contact, when the French Lieutenant appeared on the scene. By a dashing march from the French settlement on the Ogové and along the course of the Lefini, the latter succeeded in reaching the west side of Stanley Pool, and by the aid of fair words and twelve francs' worth of glass beads, claims to have obtained the cession of a large extent of country from King Makoko, and the acknowledgment of a French Protectorate over the rest. It is true that as soon as the negro chief was made acquainted with the tenour of the Treaty which he had signed—if a savage who can neither read nor write, and is ignorant of every language save his own, can be said to have subscribed a document in French—he repudiated it *in toto*, and ordered M. de Brazza's representative out of his country. In reality he had granted nothing more than any African Chief accords to every passing traveller—namely, the right to build a house and cultivate a garden, and he regarded the French flag with which he had been presented simply as a piece of gaudy calico. As for accepting anybody's protectorate, or selling his realm for half a sovereign, King Makoko ridiculed the idea, and doubtless will by-and-by have something weightier to say on the matter. Meantime, however, the more the world laughs the more eagerly M. de Brazza's admirers herald him as the winner of a new Alsace, as M. Baudais is of another Lorraine. A war ship—so we read in the Official Journal—is to be despatched to take possession of the new territory, and convince King Makoko that a scratch on paper is no joke. Prosaic people may ask how a vessel can steam up a river impeded, from the Yelalla Falls upwards, by scores of cataracts. But geography has never been the strong point of the French nation; and so, in spite of Mr. Stanley's protest, or, perhaps, on account of it, M. de Brazza, who was sent to civilise Africa, is applauded because he spent the Belgian King's money in pushing the political aggressions of the French Republic. As yet we know too little regarding the circumstances attending the annexation of the Mzab country to say whether it was justified or not; and we have too often been compelled, both in South Africa and in India, to absorb independent territory, simply in self-defence, to bear too hardly on our neighbour for an act which at first sight looks very much on a par with some less unequivocal proceedings of a like kind. It cannot, however, be forgotten that the Mzabites have always been allies of the French in Algeria, and that this ungrateful requital of their fidelity will, as some of the more reasonable publicists declare, convert them into enemies. The Malagasy business has, however, a closer concern for us. Our Government are quite alive to the scandalous breach of international law which the French are contemplating in that island; but whether Lord Granville will take any more serious measures than a protest remains to be seen. An influential Committee has already been formed to aid the Malagasy in their uphill fight, and to promulgate information regarding the facts of the case. Their Queen's Envoys are at present in London though, it is affirmed, under the surveillance of French agents. This will, of course, have no effect on their obtaining a hearing, and explaining the logic by which those who twenty years ago abandoned all claims on Madagascar, now discover that this compact was signed with a mental reservation as regards the country of the Sakalavas. Still more difficult is it to understand how the Sovereign who in 1861 was "Reine de Madagascar" becomes in 1882 only "Reine de les Hovas." But the gravest of all these annexations, actual or contemplated, is the latest, and, in superficial area, the smallest. We refer to M. Soleillet's so-called cession of Tajurrah Bay from the "Sultan" of Laita. This spot is an inlet on the North-East Coast of Africa, at the head of the Gulf of Aden, between the Somali and Danakil countries, and, therefore, in inconvenient proximity to our fortress at the outlet of the Red Sea. Apart, however, from any ulterior considerations, it is questionable whether the petty Sheikh, who is dignified with the title of Sultan, has any right to cede the port, since, strictly speaking, it belongs to Egypt. The Italian settlement in the same vicinity gave rise to a brisk diplomatic correspondence, so that it is extremely unlikely that M. Soleillet's little venture in annexation will be permitted to pass unnoticed.—*Standard.*

THE LATE MR. THURLOW WEED.

The death of Mr. Thurlow Weed will not leave any visible gap in the political life of the United States; but his name, familiar to three generations of politicians as that of the most eminent of wire-pullers and cited as an authority on his own side in public controversies down to the last year of his life, will, doubtless, be missed. Mr. Weed's long career was specially characteristic of the society in which he occupied a conspicuous place, and in the development of which he had, for good or evil, a much larger share than was generally suspected. It has come to a close when, perhaps, as great a transformation has been slowly wrought in the social structure and the political ideas of the American people as was accomplished more rapidly in the previous century by the Revolutionary war. The veteran counsellor and tactician of the Republican party had nearly completed his eighty-fifth year. He was born in 1797, while Washington was still living, while the elder Adams was President, and while the conduct of public affairs was still controlled by the men who had come to the front in the struggle for independence. It seems strange enough that one whose name has been as prominent as that of Mr. Thurlow Weed in recent American politics should have served as a private soldier and won promotion as a non-commissioned officer in the war of 1812. Though that brief contest was the only one which placed the United States during Mr. Weed's life in relations of actual belligerency with Great Britain, he did not himself easily shake off the habit of looking upon England as a foe. In this, as in other things, he fell away from the traditions of Washington and his school, which, indeed, were soon modified by the Whigs and still more by their successors the Republicans. Nevertheless, when Mr. Weed first became a political personage, bitterness against England was rather the mark of the Democrats than of the Whigs. It was political journalism that in those days opened the widest field for youthful ambition and unfriended ability. Mr. Weed was a mere boy when he began to edit newspapers "up country" in the State of New York. He became more widely known and forced his way into active participation in public life through his connexion with a curious movement, long since forgotten, but once a powerful factor in the politics of the United States. This was "Anti-Masonry," an attempt to put down the Freemasons as a secret society dangerous to Republican institutions. How far Mr. Weed and other men of ability who were active on the Anti-Masonic side really shared the popular prejudices they roused and disciplined, it is impossible to say. At any rate, before Anti-Masonry died a natural death, Mr. Weed had been elected once and again to the State Legislature at Albany, where for many years he was the soul of the Whig party. His skill in managing men, or, at least, in managing politicians, was more conspicuous than his success as a member of the Legislature, but at the outset he was best known as the conductor of an ably-written evening paper, which carried on an unceasing and implacable warfare against President Jackson and the victorious Democrats. For over thirty years Mr. Thurlow Weed occupied an almost unique position at the political capital of the "Empire State." While managing his newspaper with remarkable success, both as a party organ and as a business undertaking, he became one of the leading wire-pullers of the Whigs, and at a later period of the Republicans. He never allowed himself, we believe, to be put forward as a candidate for office; he never would accept a nomination for either House of Congress. But he was the master of the forces which prevail in caucuses, he made men of far higher position bend to his will, and he shaped the policy of his party during many years of adversity and success. He had an influential, though an informal, voice in the decisions of the party Conventions, and fought an uphill battle against the long Democratic ascendency, cheered only by the successful nominations of Harrison and Taylor, until the civil war shattered the organization of the Democrats, and gave their rivals a still longer and more unbroken term of power.—*Times.*

ENGLAND AND EGYPT.

The correspondent of the *Standard* at Cairo telegraphed on Wednesday night:—

Though great reserve is maintained regarding the *pourparlers* between Lord Dufferin and the Egyptian Government, I have reason to believe that the question of a possible reduction of interest on the Debt has already been raised. The increased security accruing to the holders of Egyptian Stock from the new order of things entitles Egypt to demand an abatement of the heavy burdens imposed under circumstances now passed away. The British Government, it is believed, is willing to countenance the resort to such measures on condition that the agricultural population, who have hitherto been the chief sufferers from the financial obligations of the country, should derive the chief benefit from any relief conceded by the creditors. Roughly speaking, two-thirds of the annual revenue are extracted directly from land, whose total area capable of cultivation scarcely exceeds five millions of acres. The average yield per acre is estimated at five pounds, whilst the average taxation amounts to twenty-two shillings. A reduction of this grievously heavy land tax is only possible through a reduction of the annual payments to the European creditors. Both must, and apparently will, go hand in hand. The Gendarmerie force is now being raised. It consists of one regiment for Lower Egypt, recruited entirely among non-commissioned officers of the late army; and one regiment for Upper Egypt, consisting of men who held aloof from the recent movements. The officers are selected carefully from the former Staff Corps. There will be one English inspector to each regiment.

The Commission appointed to examine Count Delaca Sala's scheme for the Cairo and Alexandria police, which was rashly conceived, and still more rashly carried into execution, demands the complete remodelling of the motley crowd of foreigners who were hastily recruited from every quarter by Sala and his agents, if they are expected ever to amalgamate with the native element. With regard to the Army, I understand that the Home Government, though inclined to postpone its organisation until a strong police gendarmerie has been established, consider the appointment on full pay of English officers to be requisite, in order to inspire confidence.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY ELECTION.

A circular was issued by Dr. Kennedy on Wednesday addressed to all the voters on the electoral roll of the University of Cambridge. Dr. Kennedy deprecates the public references which have been made to Mr. Raikes's connection with a good many commercial companies, and, with the high-mindedness and generosity which distinguish him, vindicates Mr. Raikes from charges which happily nobody has made or ever intended to imply:—

Dr. Kennedy frankly states that as to facts and motives he knows nothing. A director of a company is responsible for its business. He has the guidance and control of large and important transactions, and the public, with a full knowledge of what business is, look with distrust on men who crowd directorate upon directorate. It is a question, not of serving two masters, but of trying or professing to serve a dozen, and the commercial world does not hold a high opinion of the value of such divided service. The members of the University of Cambridge probably believe in the impossibility of serving two: and putting a dozen commercial businesses on one side and their representation in Parliament on the other, they have a right to ask which Mr. Raikes will despise, and to which he will cleave. Dr. Kennedy's generous apology for his friend suggests that his large family renders attention to these various businesses necessary, and if so it is the Parliamentary business which must be neglected.—*Daily News.*

WAR RUMOURS FROM VIENNA.

Only a few days since Europe had reason to rejoice over the peaceful prognostications with which the venerable German Emperor concluded his Speech from the Throne, and already certain pessimists in Vienna have set up an alarmist cry to the effect that a Russo-Austrian war is "on the cards" for next spring, upon the slender foundation of a few ambiguous observations addressed by Herr von Plener to the Austrian Delegation:—

It would appear that Count Kalnoky, questioned by a member of the Delegation with respect to the attitude of the Czar's Government towards the late insurrection in Austria's south-eastern provinces, stated that Russia had in no way encouraged that rising; but his Excellency subsequently imparted some confidential information upon this subject to the Delegation. As the information in question has not transpired—a fact which seems to be regarded in Vienna as quite surprising—the pessimists above alluded to choose to believe that it must be ominous of war, on the principle, we presume, laid down in the old adage, that "everything unknown is terrible." To this assumption Herr von Plener has lent some colour, unfortunately, by entreating the Government "not to give way to any warlike tendencies, but to preserve peace at any price, save that of dishonour." We incline to believe that William I. of Germany knows at least as much about European prospects as Herr von Plener and the majority of Viennese quidnuncs. At any rate, we had rather put our trust in his hopeful forecasts than in the gloomy prophecies just current in the Kaiserstadt. It is no secret to any well-informed person that neither Russia nor Austria want to fight each other or anybody else—Russia, because she has a bad army and empty exchequer—Austria, because she cannot afford to indulge in so expensive a luxury as war, and has, besides, more on her hands at home than she can conveniently deal with. In our opinion there is, at the present moment, no reason to apprehend any disturbance of European peace for some considerable time to come.—*Daily Telegraph.*

THE OLD KENT-ROAD MURDER.—*Sentence.*—The trial of Charles Taylor, carpenter, aged thirty-four, charged with the murder of his wife, was resumed at the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday before Mr. Justice Hawkins. The prisoner lived with his wife and two children at a house in Old Kent-road, and in October last cut his wife's throat and afterwards attempted to destroy his own life by cutting his throat. Mr. Poley, for the defence, set up a plea of insanity, and called a large number of witnesses, including Dr. Forbes Winslow and Dr. Spark, assistant medical officer of the House of Detention, to prove that the accused was of unsound mind. Mr. Poland, on the part of the prosecution, contended that the man was sane when the act was committed. Mr. Justice Hawkins having summed up the evidence, the jury, after a long interval, brought in a verdict of Guilty. The judge then passed sentence of death in the usual way.

PARLIAMENTARY SUMMARY.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday Mr. Lyon Playfair rose to make a personal explanation with respect to an incident of the previous sitting. The right hon. gentleman, who was loudly cheered on the Liberal side, explained, in reply to Lord R. Churchill's strictures, that he had been absent during the discussions through severe illness, though he further intimated that had it been possible for him to have been present he should not have thought it proper for him to take part in the debates. As to Colonel Nolan's statement that a messenger from the Chair had communicated with him on the subject of his suspension, "I wish to state," Mr. Playfair said, "in the most emphatic language I can use that I never heard of the incident till I read of it this morning." Recurring to a remarkable story which Mr. Mac Iver had reported on an earlier day, to the effect that he had overheard the Chairman of Committees say to a member that he had not called to order Mr. Walter on account of his connection with an influential journal, Mr. Playfair desired to assure the member for Birkenhead, "not feeling it necessary to assure the House," that there was not a particle of foundation for the story. The right hon. gentleman resumed his seat amid renewed cheering. Colonel Nolan explained that the incident was not brought forward as a charge, but as an illustration. He also demurred to the accuracy of the report in the *Times* upon which Mr. Playfair rested his denial. The hon. and gallant member repeated his statement, that on the occasion in question one of the Clerks at the Table had come up to him in the Lobby, and said, "Do you want to get suspended, or not?" The Speaker here pointed out that Colonel Nolan was referring to a communication of an informal kind, which had taken place outside the House. Colonel Nolan added that the interview took place in the division lobby, and that he certainly regarded the message as an official communication. Mr. Gladstone pointed out that there was an important gap in Colonel Nolan's statement. He had expected him to state whether the clerk who addressed him did or did not say that this communication was from the Chairman of Committees. Col. Nolan explained that he was at the time quite sure it came from the Chairman of Committees, though now he was quite sure it did not. The incident here terminated, and the House resumed the consideration of the Procedure Rules. On Rule 9, dealing with penalties for wilful obstruction, Mr. Gladstone moved amendments with the object of carrying out his intention, already announced, of reducing the terms of punishment. These met with general acceptance. On the subject of collective naming, Mr. Gladstone, in the course of discussion, intimated that whilst he was not able altogether to abandon this safeguard, he was prepared to introduce an amendment by which collective naming should be confined altogether to cases of disregarding the authority of the Chair. This suggestion met with the approval of Sir R. Cross. Mr. Gladstone introduced another proviso, to the effect that the suspension from service of the House of a member should not exempt him from service an any Committe for the consideration of a private bill to which he might have been appointed before his suspension. This was agreed to. The Premier then, in accordance with his undertaking, moved a proviso declaring that "not more than one member shall be named at the same time, unless for disregarding the authority of the Chair, or unless several members present together have jointly committed the act for which they are named." This, with a slight amendment introduced at the instance of Lord R. Churchill, was agreed to without a division. On a motion that the Rule, as amended, be agreed to, a division was challenged by Lord R. Churchill and the Parnellites, with the result that the Rule was carried by 161 votes against 19. The House then adjourned.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, WEDNESDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager Marchioness of Ely. Her Majesty's dinner party included the Grand Duke of Hesse, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Strathearne, the Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, Prince Leopold Duke of Albany, Princess Beatrice, the Duke of Cambridge, Lady Waterpark, Lady in Waiting; the Dowager-Marchioness of Ely, the Hon. Mrs. Egerton, the Hon. Mary Pitt, the Hon. Amy Lambart, General the Right Hon. Sir Henry and the Hon. Lady Ponsonby, General Lord Wolseley, G.C.M.G., and Lady Wolseley, Lieutenant-General Sir John Adye, K.C.B., Lieutenant-General Sir E. Hamley, K.C.M.G., Lieutenant-General G. H. S. Willis, C.B., Vice-Admiral W. M. Dowell, C.B., Brigadier-General Nugent, R.E., Major-General Sir J. C. McNeill, V.C., Captain von Hagenau, Colonel Tuson, R.M.A., Captain Pole Carew, late orderly officer to the Duke of Connaught; Colonel R. Bateson, A.D.C. to the Duke of Cambridge; Viscount Torrington, Lord in Waiting; Colonel Lord E. Pelham Clinton, Groom in Waiting; and Major-Gen. Du Plat, Equerry in Waiting. The band of the Colstream Guards, under the direction of Mr. Thomas, played during dinner. The Duke of Albany, attended by the Hon. Alexander Yorke and his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, attended by Colonel R. Bateson, left the Castle in the forenoon. General Lord Wolseley had the honour of kissing hands this morning on his being raised to the peerage. Her Majesty's guests have left the Castle. At the ceremony of the distribution of the Egyptian war medals on Tuesday, her Majesty wore on her velvet and fur pelisse, the Orders of Victoria and Albert, and of the Crown of India. During the presentation of the medals the Queen stood on a carpet presented to her Majesty by the Duke of Connaught, who had slept upon it in Arabi's tent on the night of the battle of Tel-el-Kebir.

The Duke of Connaught has arranged to return to his seat, Bagshot Park, on Saturday, and the inhabitants of the village, in which his Royal Highness takes a great interest, are making preparations to give him a hearty public reception. The village and route from the station are decorated, and a triumphal arch is to be erected. A detachment of the Berks Volunteers will act as a guard of honour.

The Princess Mary Adelaide and the Duke of Teck arrived at Windsor Castle on Wednesday evening.

The Marquis of Bath is entertaining company at Longleat, Wilts.

The Earl of Devon has returned to town from the Castle, Newcastle, county Limerick.

The remains of the late Lord Otho Augustus Fitz Gerald were interred on Wednesday afternoon in the churchyard of St. Andrew's, at Clewer, near Windsor. The mourners assembled at Oakley Court, and included the Hon. Gerald Fitz Gerald (his lordship's son), the Duke of Leinster, the Marquis Conyngham, Lord Gerald FitzGerald, Lord Maurice FitzGerald, General Foley, Captain Herbert, the Hon. H. Denison, the Hon. C. Denison, Sir Vincent Corbett, Captain the Hon. Randolph Stewart, the Rev. E. W. Orlando Bridgman (brother of Lady Otho FitzGerald), Mr. G. Repton, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. James, and Mr. Saltwell. The *Morning Post* is requested to state that Lord Otho was only ill three days before his death, and that he had not been ailing for some time, as stated in our previous notice.

LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM "TRUTH.")

An interesting point has arisen as to the right of the head of an ancient house to his own name as against the assumption of it by others. Lady Payne-Gallwey, widow of Sir W. Payne-Gallwey, has recently announced her intention to assume her father's family name of Frankland, in lieu of that of her late husband, with which he seems to have been very well content as long as he was alive. Now, although Lady Payne-Gallwey was only a third daughter, there might be some reason in her resuming her maiden name if the Frankland line were extinct; but not only is the ninth Baronet of that line alive, but he has two sons, a brother, and several nephews, all of whom must disappear before the old title dies out.

The telegram sent to Mr. Tennyson on the close of the first performance of *The Promise of May* was—"Opinions divided; applause." If Mr. Tennyson read the newspapers on Monday morning, sad indeed must have been the awakening.

The Laureate has had little experience behind the scenes of theatres. When shown a dressing-room he gazed at it musingly, and observed:—"Here, then, the ladies put on their fleshings." During the rehearsals of the *Promise* his main anxiety was that the rustics should be "more bovine."

It has just leaked out that much difficulty was encountered by the War Office authorities in finding qualified officers to undertake pay duties in Egypt. After sending a circular round to the general officers commanding at home, asking them to do their best to induce volunteers to come forward, the Horse Guards were compelled in many cases to fill up vacancies by reappointing officers who had been previously relegated to the retired list. This is not all surprising, as service in the Army Pay Department has been very unpopular of late, and until the grievances of the officers of this department are redressed, it is likely to remain so.

Considering how many libraries already exist within a mile of the Bodleian, the proposal to erect a free one in honour of Dr. Pusey appears uncommonly like carrying coals to Newcastle. However, if £50,000 is to be spent in this way it will, at any rate, benefit the architect and the bookseller, and so be as useful as memorials generally are.

I looked in at the Belt libel case one morning last week. Amongst the busts that crowd the Court there is one of Cardinal Newman, which is admittedly by Verhyden, and it struck me as the best of the lot.

A large hotel is to be built at Morthoe, in North Devon, and negotiations with the landowners have been concluded for the erection of a number of villas and several terraces on the slopes facing the Bay. The air of Morthoe is renowned in the West of England, and its long stretch of sands and its famous shell-coves are likely to render it a most formidable rival to Ilfracombe; but it is to be feared that, in proportion as it increases in public favour, the exceptional features of its coast will disappear, and no doubt in a few years its principal coves will be arranged after the manner of the beauties of Matlock and other "popular" resorts.

I am pleased to hear that there is no truth in the report that Plas Newydd, Lord Anglesey's beautiful place on the Menai Straits, is to be turned into a "retreat" for dipsomaniacs. It would certainly have been a case of a sorry stud in a magnificent stable.

There is a pretty little dispute raging in Liverpool. Mr. Horsfall has offered to build a church in that city, provided that the Clewer Sisters be allowed to work in the district attached to it. Bishop Ryle has refused to assent to the proviso, and as one of the rules of the Sisterhood is not to enter a new diocese without the permission of its Bishop, the refusal is practically a veto upon the erection of the proposed church. Putting aside questions of ritual, etc., on which there may be many opinions, the Sisters are doing much good in charitable work in many English dioceses, and I make no doubt that they would do infinitely more good than harm were they allowed to include Liverpool in the field of their labours.

A master and matron were recently appointed at the Melton Mowbray Workhouse, under the impression that they were man and wife. After a few weeks it was discovered that the wife was a deceased wife's sister. The couple had been legally married in a colony; but some austere moralist among the guardians forwarded a complaint on the subject to the Local Government Board, and Mr. Dodson decided that the unfortunate pair must be dismissed from their posts; but the majority of the guardians decline to take this course, and the place has been thrown into a ferment.

The Married Women's Property Committee and their friends had good reason to congratulate themselves, at their meeting last Saturday, on their exertions; for by the Act which comes into operation next year married women, so far as regards property, are placed in precisely the same position as their husbands. This is right and proper, but it deprives those who advocate giving women votes of their strongest argument. My own impression is that the vast majority of women would prefer not having the suffrage. Much may, no doubt, be said in favour of their being granted it, but more, I think, against it. Most of the male advocates for the former are, I observe, wedded to ladies who entertain strong views upon the subject, and probably this marital zeal is due to the desire to have a quiet life at home.

A BELGIAN MYSTERY.

A case which promises to be famous among the romances of crime is now being heard at Brussels. Last January the body of William Bernays was found in a small room in No. 159, Rue de la Loi, Brussels. For ten months the most searching investigation has been made; the supposed murderer has been captured; but as the mystery remains unexplained the story continues to excite the greatest interest both in Belgium and abroad. William Bernays was a well-known member of the Belgian bar. After a brilliant university career he settled at Antwerp, where he married. On the morning of the 7th of January M. Bernays left his house at eight o'clock, and, as was his daily custom, took his little son to school. He then went to the station and took the train for Brussels. This was the last time he was seen alive by any of his friends. No one knew of his intended journey, and when evening came much astonishment and even alarm was felt at his absence from home. His friends telegraphed in all directions, and even for some days did not despair of his return. But on the 10th of January the circumstances were laid before the police authorities. It was not, however, until the 14th that his disappearance was publicly announced. Some said that he had committed suicide, others that he had been murdered, while one rumour declared that he had retired to a Jesuit convent. On the 18th the Procureur du Roi received a mysterious letter, dated Bâle, January 16, 1882, written in English, and signed "Henry Vaughan." "I was," said the writer, "seized with horror when I read the news respecting M. Bernays." He then went on to tell his story: "Bernays came to see me at my house in Brussels, No. 159, Rue de la Loi, by engagement. While we were talking Bernays's eye fell on a pistol which I had been showing to him. I took it to put it back in its place, when it went off and Bernays fell. I thought him only wounded, and left the room in search of hartshorn and water. Alas! when I returned the blood was flowing from his wound; he was dead, killed by my hand. My first thought was to rush for the coroner, but in my despair I thought of my position. Unknown, a stranger in Brussels, friendless, who would believe my tale? I yielded to the terrible temptation and fled." On receipt of this letter a party of police went to No. 159. The door was burst open. The ground floor was made up of *salon, salle-à-manger*, and a small *cabinet*. The two first were unfurnished. The *cabinet* at the end of the vestibule was closed, but the glimmer of yellow light was seen through the crevices of the door. The door was opened, and there stretched on a couch in one corner was the body of Bernays, in a state of decomposition, but easily recognizable. On a small table were a map of Africa, five revolvers, and two boxes of bullets. On the map was a letter addressed to the coroner, signed, as in the first case, "Vaughan," telling how the dead man was killed. Vaughan had taken the house in December, paying six months' rent in advance. It was not until the 6th of January that he had furnished the *cabinet*.

Who Vaughan was no one knew. Twenty-five thousand francs were offered for his apprehension. Then the papers published facsimiles of his autograph and handwriting, and thus furnished a clue. A tradesman of Vervins declared that the writing was that of Léon Peltzer, a Belgian subject, with whom he had had business transactions. Peltzer had three brothers. Armand, the elder, was a bold, adventurous spirit, who had made and lost several fortunes in Buenos Ayres. In this business Léon was concerned. After the utter wreck of his brother's business in 1870 he associated himself with a banking house, which came to grief. One of its directors fled, and Léon was suspected of helping him in his flight. Buenos Ayres became too warm for him, and he was said to have taken ship for Europe. After the identification of the handwriting by the Vervins tradesman, Armand and James Peltzer published a letter in defence of their brother; and according to their tale they wrote to him at San Francisco—his last address—telling him the story and begging him to return. But while writing this letter Armand knew quite well that Léon was hidden on the Belgian frontier, for on the same day that the letter of remonstrance appeared he addressed a telegram to Léon which eventually brought about his arrest. Armand now invoked the aid of a certain Dr. Lavise—an intimate friend of the brothers: "This is a melancholy business. Here I am carrying on a correspondence with a lady and being closely watched; I cannot get her letters from the post-office. Will you help me?" The doctor consented, and for a time telegrams and letters were left at his address. On the 3rd of March, at seven o'clock, a telegram came to Lavise from Vienna:—"Donnez détails surmaladie après consultation. Lettre suivra. Télégraphiez Cologne buffet gare, ou viendrai faire opération. (Signé)—Dr. Lamboss." Upon reflection Lavise concluded that this mysterious message was for Armand. And on the following day he received the letter. This he took to James, asking him to give it to his brother. At ten the same night Armand called and asked him to send a telegram to Cologne:—"Charlotte va mieux. Soyez pas agité, ecrirai même adresse." This he sent off. About one in the morning the Doctor was sitting in his room when Armand came in in great haste, and informed Lavise that the telegram had been misunderstood, and that Léon would arrive that morning. His consternation alarmed the doctor, who had been led to believe that Armand desired nothing so much in the world as the arrival of his brother. He refused to receive Léon Peltzer, but promised to meet him at the station. Pending the arrival of the train he took counsel with his friends, and decided at last to inform the police. Léon was arrested at Cologne on his way to Antwerp. He was committed for trial, and for five months the authorities have been getting up the case against him. This trial promises to be the most remarkable *cause célèbre* of the Belgian bar. No theory of motive has as yet been suggested adequately to account for the crime.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

POULTRY PROGRESS.

Nobody will be surprised to learn that "the Poultry Show at the Crystal Palace is the most extensive exhibition of the kind ever brought forward;" and yet, making all allowance for a twelvemonth's progress, 5,390 pens of birds is an astounding figure. With a modest calculation that only 20 per cent. of them are cocks, and that they have sufficient self-denial to crow only six times in the hour, what terrors do we find under one roof alone! This, it is true, is only one aspect of the question, though by no means an unimportant one; for, to an outsider, the rooster's voice is the most conspicuous detail of a fowl-house. With the real essence of a poultry show, however, outsiders have nothing to do. Life is too short for mere spectators, men of the world, to master the intricacies of artificial poultry-breeding. Even the judges cannot remain infallible without fresh instructions, for the standard of perfection is so constantly changing that old breeders hardly recognise their favourite birds in the extraordinary monstrosities that carry off the cups and prizes nowadays. Competition is the rage of the age, and we live in an atmosphere of "best on record" achievements. Each new steamer across the Atlantic, each fresh pedestrian at Lillie Bridge, boasts of beating all previous performances by fractions of hours or minutes; and so each poultry-breeder dreams and labours only to add one more feather to the hind-toe of a fowl or one more wrinkle to a carrier-pigeon's beak. And so at last the typical Cochin China fowl has become just such a gruesome spectre in feathers as the imagination of an artist of Japan might have conceived for one of his fantastic gods to ride upon. All the malice of civilisation has been expended upon fowls. Legs so heavily feathered that the wretched birds only walk by a series of fortunate accident; heads decorated with tufts so enormous that the creature's circle of vision is limited to the ground it stands upon; combs of so wonderful a kind that each cock appears to carry a beefsteak and two mutton chops above his startled visage: these are the results of centuries of scientific breeding. Nor need the poultry complain; for the evils of high-pressure competition are equally obvious among bipeds of the "featherless class." In our modern schools have we not results as lamentable in the large-headed, weak-eyed boys of fourth, fifth, or sixth standards or forms, trained like Cochin China cockerels or stuned standard roses into one stiff type of conventional excellence? Turn one of these prize fowls into the fields and it will starve, or after a straddling gallop of twenty yards fall a helpless victim to the first fox that pursues it; and in the same way you may send a boy who has received a "first-prize education" into the world, and he generally finds absolutely nothing that he can do, except to form one more of that too numerous class whose woes find periodical expression in the public press beneath large-type headings of "Over-Supply of Clerks," or "Formation of a Regiment of Gentlemen." For years men of all types of thought have combined to denounce "the vile art of teaching words," as Beaconsfield stigmatized the learning of his youth. But the world goes on, and we still offer the same old prizes for the same old acquirements; and just as the wheels of our educational system creak more rustily and grind the hopes out of more young lives year after year, so poultry show succeeds to poultry show, and the Cochin yearly finds a greater difficulty in walking and the Houdan becomes more hideous. That the results of this competition are evil cannot be denied, for everything is judged by a fictitious standard of "results." Parents judge the nursery-teaching by the place a small boy takes on entering his first school; his schoolmaster is judged by "results" when his pupil leaves him for the public school; public schools base their reputation upon the "results" of their teaching—the university scholarships; the university judges by degrees conferred for excellence; and then, grand result of all, the young man enters life provided with fragments of dead languages whereby to make a

Galignani's Messenger.

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NOTICE.

A Four-page Supplement is published with this day's number of the MESSENGER, *and will be delivered gratis with each copy of the paper. It contains our American news and an interesting variety of literary extracts.*

Great Britain.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 22—23, 1882.

THE LATE MR. THURLOW WEED.

The death of Mr. Thurlow Weed will not leave any visible gap in the political life of the United States; but his name, familiar to three generations of politicians as that of the most eminent of wire-pullers and cited as an authority on his own side in public controversies down to the last year of his life, will, doubtless, be missed. Mr. Weed's long career was specially characteristic of the society in which he occupied a conspicuous place, and in the development of which he had, for good or evil, a much larger share than was generally suspected. It has come to a close when, perhaps, as great a transformation has been slowly wrought in the social structure and the political ideas of the American people as was accomplished more rapidly in the previous century by the Revolutionary war. The veteran counsellor and tactician of the Republican party had nearly completed his eighty-fifth year. He was born in 1797, while Washington was still living, while the elder Adams was President, and while the conduct of public affairs was still controlled by the men who had come to the front in the struggle for independence. It seems strange enough that one whose name has been as prominent as that of Mr. Thurlow Weed in recent American politics should have served as a private soldier and won promotion as a non-commissioned officer in the war of 1812. Though that brief contest was the only one which placed the United States during Mr. Weed's life in relations of actual belligerency with Great Britain, he did not himself easily shake off the habit of looking upon England as a foe. In this, as in other things, he fell away from the traditions of Washington and his school, which, indeed, were soon modified by the Whigs and still more by their successors the Republicans. Nevertheless, when Mr. Weed first became a political personage, bitterness against England was rather the mark of the Democrats than of the Whigs. It was political journalism that in those days opened the widest field for youthful ambition and unfriended ability. Mr. Weed was a mere boy when he began to edit newspapers "up country" in the State of New York. He became more widely known and forced his way into active participation in public life through his connexion with a curious movement, long since forgotten, but once a powerful factor in the politics of the United States. This was "Anti-Masonry," an attempt to put down the Freemasons as a secret society dangerous to Republican institutions. How far Mr. Weed and other men of ability who were active on the Anti-Masonic side really shared the popular prejudices they roused and disciplined, it is impossible to say. At any rate, before Anti-Masonry died a natural death, Mr. Weed had been elected once and again to the State Legislature at Albany, where for many years he was the soul of the Whig party. His skill in managing men, or, at least, in managing politicians, was more conspicuous than his success as a member of the Legislature, but at the outset he was best known as the conductor of an ably-written evening paper, which carried on an unceasing and implacable warfare against President Jackson and the victorious Democrats. For over thirty years Mr. Thurlow Weed occupied an almost unique position at the political capital of the "Empire State." While managing his newspaper with remarkable success, both as a party organ and as a business undertaking, he became one of the leading wire-pullers of the Whigs, and at a later period of the Republicans. He never allowed himself, we believe, to be put forward as a candidate for office; he never would accept a nomination for either House of Congress. But he was the master of the forces which prevail in caucuses, he made men of far higher position bend to his will, and he shaped the policy of his party during many years of adversity and success. He had an influential, though an informal, voice in the decisions of the party Conventions, and fought an uphill battle against the long Democratic ascendency, cheered only by the successful nominations of Harrison and Taylor, until the civil war shattered the organization of the Democrats, and gave their rivals a still longer and more unbroken term of power.—*Times.*

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY ELECTION.

A circular was issued by Dr. Kennedy on Wednesday addressed to all the voters on the electoral roll of the University of Cambridge. Dr. Kennedy deprecates the public references which have been made to Mr. Raikes's connection with a good many commercial companies, and, with the high-mindedness and generosity which distinguish him, vindicates Mr. Raikes from charges which happily nobody has made or ever intended to imply:—

Dr. Kennedy frankly states that as to facts and motives he knows nothing. A director of a company is responsible for its business. He has the guidance and control of large and important transactions, and the public, with a full knowledge of what business is, look with distrust on men who crowd directorate upon directorate. It is a question, not of serving two masters, but of trying or professing to serve a dozen, and the commercial world does not hold a high opinion of the value of such divided service. The members of the University of Cambridge probably believe in the impossibility of serving two: and putting a dozen commercial businesses on one side and their representation in Parliament on the other, they have a right to ask which Mr. Raikes will despise, and to which he will cleave. Dr. Kennedy's generous apology for his friend suggests that his large family renders attention to these various businesses necessary, and if so it is the Parliamentary business which must be neglected.—*Daily News.*

THE POLICE FORCE IN EGYPT.

The police force in Egypt was never an exemplary or a particularly efficient body. The constables, in fez, had a habit of not seeing that which they did not wish to see. They were not exactly bursting over with zeal or courage, and they had as keen an estimation of the value of *baksheesh* as any dragoman or donkey-boy from Port Said to Suez. As detectives, they were about on a par with our plain-clothes officers:—

During the recent troubles, the members of the organisation appear to have acted in thorough and consistent consonance with their ancient reputation. They shouted with the majority, on the good old Pickwickian principle; they plundered when looting was the fashion; and they were the most robust of rowdies when rowdyism was rampant. It is even said that some of the more active guardians of order helped to set fire to houses in Alexandria in the hope of promotion under the new *régime*. It would be pleasant to hear that all his had been changed, although, from the point of view of the picturesque, it might be a loss to the romancers and melodramatists of the future. A new set of preservers of the peace has been embodied in the territory of the Khedive, it is true; but as far as one can judge from the information already to hand, it will be anything but the equal of the smart division improvised by Lord Charles Beresford from the sailors of our fleet. At best, this recently-established force is a scratch-pack. It has been principally recruited in Switzerland; but there are men in its ranks who speak German, French and Italian as their native languages, while there is a strong element of native Arabs in European uniform. There are many foreigners in Egypt, therefore there is room, and, indeed, necessity, for constables who could discharge interpreter's duty on occasion; but with a body constituted in such a hybrid manner as this, there can be no homogeneity and little discipline. It would have been better to have raised the police chiefly from natives, with a sufficiently strong number of foreigners to leaven them. Under existing arrangements the Place Mehemet Ali must be suggestive of the Tower of Babel; and the roysterer who has been dining at his club will need a polyglot edition of the police regulations when he is tempted to ascend the nearest lamp-post to lecture the custodians of the night. For this reason alone it is to be feared the new Egyptian police must be pronounced a social mistake, if not a civic failure.—*Evening Standard.*

ENGLAND AND EGYPT.

The correspondent of the *Standard* at Cairo telegraphed on Wednesday night:—

Though great reserve is maintained regarding the *pourparlers* between Lord Dufferin and the Egyptian Government, I have reason to believe that the question of a possible reduction of interest on the Debt has already been raised. The increased security accruing to the holders of Egyptian Stock from the new order of things entitles Egypt to demand an abatement of the heavy burdens imposed under circumstances now passed away. The British Government, it is believed, is willing to countenance the resort to such measures on condition that the agricultural population, who have hitherto been the chief sufferers from the financial obligations of the country, should derive the chief benefit from any relief conceded by the creditors. Roughly speaking, two-thirds of the annual revenue are extracted directly from land, whose total area capable of cultivation scarcely exceeds five millions of acres. The average yield per acre is estimated at five pounds, whilst the average taxation amounts to twenty-two shillings. A reduction of this grievously heavy land tax is only possible through a reduction of the annual payments to the European creditors. Both must, and apparently will, go hand in hand. The Gendarmerie force is now being raised. It consists of one regiment for Lower Egypt, recruited entirely among non-commissioned officers of the late army; and one regiment for Upper Egypt, consisting of men who held aloof from the recent movements. The officers are selected carefully from the former Staff Corps. There will be one English inspector to each regiment.

The Commission appointed to examine Count Delaca Sala's scheme for the Cairo and Alexandria police, which was rashly conceived, and still more rashly carried into execution, demands the complete remodelling of the motley crowd of foreigners who were hastily recruited from every quarter by Sala and his agents, if they are expected ever to amalgamate with the native element. With regard to the Army, I understand that the Home Government, though inclined to postpone its organisation until a strong police gendarmerie has been established, consider the appointment on full pay of English officers to be requisite, in order to inspire confidence.

WAR RUMOURS FROM VIENNA.

Only a few days since Europe had reason to rejoice over the peaceful prognostications with which the venerable German Emperor concluded his Speech from the Throne, and already certain pessimists in Vienna have set up an alarmist cry to the effect that a Russo-Austrian war is "on the cards" for next spring, upon the slender foundation of a few ambiguous observations addressed by Herr von Plener to the Austrian Delegation:—

It would appear that Count Kalnoky, questioned by a member of the Delegation with respect to the attitude of the Czar's Government towards the late insurrection in Austria's south-eastern provinces, stated that Russia had in no way encouraged that rising; but his Excellency subsequently imparted some confidential information upon this subject to the Delegation. As the information in question has not transpired—a fact which seems to be regarded in Vienna as quite surprising—the pessimists above alluded to choose to believe that it must be ominous of war, on the principle, we presume, laid down in the old adage, that "everything unknown is terrible." To this assumption Herr von Plener has lent some colour, unfortunately, by entreating the Government "not to give way to any warlike tendencies, but to preserve peace at any price, save that of dishonour." We incline to believe that William I. of Germany knows at least as much about European prospects as Herr von Plener and the majority of Viennese quidnuncs. At any rate, we had rather put our trust in his hopeful forecasts than in the gloomy prophecies just current in the Kaiserstadt. It is no secret to any well-informed person that neither Russia nor Austria want to fight each other or anybody else—Russia, because she has a bad army and empty exchequer—Austria, because she cannot afford to indulge in so expensive a luxury as war, and has, besides, more on her hands at home than she can conveniently deal with. In our opinion there is, at the present moment, no reason to apprehend any disturbance of European peace for some considerable time to come.—*Daily Telegraph.*

ESCAPE AND RECAPTURE OF A CONVICT.—At Chatham, on Tuesday afternoon, a young convict named Henry Bryant, undergoing ten years' penal servitude, made a daring attempt to escape. He formed one of a party engaged in levelling the top of a high embankment running parallel with the bridle-path of a large wood which skirts the prison, and, the guard having momentarily turned his back, Bryant was seen by the other convicts to lie flat on the ground and wriggle himself down the embankment. He then succeeded in scaling the spiked fence and entered the wood. An armed search-party went in pursuit, and the convict was recaptured before dark.

PARLIAMENTARY SUMMARY.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday Mr. Lyon Playfair rose to make a personal explanation with respect to an incident of the previous sitting. The right hon. gentleman, who was loudly cheered on the Liberal side, explained, in reply to Lord R. Churchill's strictures, that he had been absent during the discussions through severe illness, though he further intimated that had it been possible for him to have been present he should not have thought it proper for him to take part in the debates. As to Colonel Nolan's statement that a messenger from the Chair had communicated with him on the subject of his suspension, "I wish to state," Mr. Playfair said, "in the most emphatic language I can use that I never heard of the incident till I read of it this morning." Recurring to a remarkable story which Mr. Mac Iver had reported on an earlier day, to the effect that he had overheard the Chairman of Committees say to a member that he had not called to order Mr. Walter on account of his connection with an influential journal, Mr. Playfair desired to assure the member for Birkenhead, "not feeling it necessary to assure the House," that there was not a particle of foundation for the story. The right hon. gentleman resumed his seat amid renewed cheering. Colonel Nolan explained that the incident was not brought forward as a charge, but as an illustration. He also demurred to the accuracy of the report in the *Times* upon which Mr. Playfair rested his denial. The hon. and gallant member repeated his statement, that on the occasion in question one of the Clerks at the Table had come up to him in the Lobby, and said, "Do you want to get suspended, or not?" The Speaker here pointed out that Colonel Nolan was referring to a communication of an informal kind, which had taken place outside the House. Colonel Nolan added that the interview took place in the division lobby, and that he certainly regarded the message as an official communication. Mr. Gladstone pointed out that there was an important gap in Colonel Nolan's statement. He had expected him to state whether the clerk who addressed him did or did not say that this communication was from the Chairman of Committees. Col. Nolan explained that he was at the time quite sure it came from the Chairman of Committees, though now he was quite sure it did not. The incident here terminated, and the House resumed the consideration of the Procedure Rules. On Rule 9, dealing with penalties for wilful obstruction, Mr. Gladstone moved amendments with the object of carrying out his intention, already announced, of reducing the terms of punishment. These met with general acceptance. On the subject of collective naming, Mr. Gladstone, in the course of discussion, intimated that whilst he was not able altogether to abandon this safeguard, he was prepared to introduce an amendment by which collective naming should be confined altogether to cases of disregarding the authority of the Chair. This suggestion met with the approval of Sir R. Cross. Mr. Gladstone introduced another proviso, to the effect that the suspension from service of the House of a member should not exempt him from service an any Committe for the consideration of a private bill to which he might have been appointed before his suspension. This was agreed to. The Premier then, in accordance with his undertaking, moved a proviso declaring that "not more than one member shall be named at the same time, unless for disregarding the authority of the Chair, or unless several members present together have jointly committed the act for which they are named." This, with a slight amendment introduced at the instance of Lord R. Churchill, was agreed to without a division. On a motion that the Rule, as amended, be agreed to, a division was challenged by Lord R. Churchill and the Parnellites, with the result that the Rule was carried by 161 votes against 19. The House then adjourned.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, WEDNESDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager Marchioness of Ely. Her Majesty's dinner party included the Grand Duke of Hesse, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Strathearne, the Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, Prince Leopold Duke of Albany, Princess Beatrice, the Duke of Cambridge, Lady Waterpark, Lady in Waiting; the Dowager-Marchioness of Ely, the Hon. Mrs. Egerton, the Hon. Mary Pitt, the Hon. Amy Lambart, General the Right Hon. Sir Henry and the Hon. Lady Ponsonby, General Lord Wolseley, G.C.M.G., and Lady Wolseley, Lieutenant-General Sir John Adye, K.C.B., Lieutenant-General Sir E. Hamley, K.C.M.G., Lieutenant-General G. H. S. Willis, C.B., Vice-Admiral W. M. Dowell, C.B., Brigadier-General Nugent, R.E., Major-General Sir J. C. M'Neill, V.C., Captain von Hagenau, Colonel Tuson, R.M.A., Captain Pole Carew, late orderly officer to the Duke of Connaught; Colonel R. Bateson, A.D.C. to the Duke of Cambridge; Viscount Torrington, Lord in Waiting; Colonel Lord E. Pelham Clinton, Groom in Waiting; and Major-Gen. Du Plat, Equerry in Waiting. The band of the Colstream Guards, under the direction of Mr. Thomas, played during dinner. The Duke of Albany, attended by the Hon. Alexander Yorke and his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, attended by Colonel R. Bateson, left the Castle in the forenoon. General Lord Wolseley had the honour of kissing hands this morning on his being raised to the peerage. Her Majesty's guests have left the Castle. At the ceremony of the distribution of the Egyptian war medals on Tuesday, her Majesty wore on her velvet and fur pelisse, the Orders of Victoria and Albert, and of the Crown of India. During the presentation of the medals the Queen stood on a carpet presented to her Majesty by the Duke of Connaught, who had slept upon it in Arabi's tent on the night of the battle of Tel-el-Kebir.

The Duke of Connaught has arranged to return to his seat, Bagshot Park, on Saturday, and the inhabitants of the village, in which his Royal Highness takes a great interest, are making preparations to give him a hearty public reception. The village and route from the station are decorated, and a triumphal arch is to be erected. A detachment of the Berks Volunteers will act as a guard of honour.

The Princess Mary Adelaide and the Duke of Teck arrived at Windsor Castle on Wednesday evening.

The Marquis of Bath is entertaining company at Longleat, Wilts.

The Earl of Devon has returned to town from the Castle, Newcastle, county Limerick.

The remains of the late Lord Otho Augustus Fitz Gerald were interred on Wednesday afternoon in the churchyard of St. Andrew's, at Clewer, near Windsor. The mourners assembled at Oakley Court, and included the Hon. Gerald Fitz Gerald (his lordship's son), the Duke of Leinster, the Marquis Conyngham, Lord Gerald FitzGerald, Lord Maurice FitzGerald, General Foley, Captain Herbert, the Hon. H. Denison, the Hon. C. Denison, Sir Vincent Corbett, Captain the Hon. Randolph Stewart, the Rev. E. W. Orlando Bridgman (brother of Lady Otho FitzGerald), Mr. G. Repton, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. James, and Mr. Saltwell. The *Morning Post* is requested to state that Lord Otho was only ill three days before his death, and that he had not been ailing for some time, as stated in our previous notice.

LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM "TRUTH.")

An interesting point has arisen as to the right of the head of an ancient house to his own name as against the assumption of it by others. Lady Payne-Gallwey, widow of Sir W. Payne-Gallwey, has recently announced her intention to assume her father's family name of Frankland, in lieu of that of her late husband, with which he seems to have been very well content as long as he was alive. Now, although Lady Payne-Gallwey was only a third daughter, there might be some reason in her resuming her maiden name if the Frankland line were extinct; but not only is the ninth Baronet of that line alive, but he has two sons, a brother, and several nephews, all of whom must disappear before the old title dies out.

The telegram sent to Mr. Tennyson on the close of the first performance of *The Promise of May* was—"Opinions divided; applause." If Mr. Tennyson read the newspapers on Monday morning, sad indeed must have been the awakening.

The Laureate has had little experience behind the scenes of theatres. When shown a dressing-room he gazed at it musingly, and observed:—"Here, then, the ladies put on their fleshings." During the rehearsals of the *Promise* his main anxiety was that the rustics should be "more bovine."

It has just leaked out that much difficulty was encountered by the War Office authorities in finding qualified officers to undertake pay duties in Egypt. After sending a circular round to the general officers commanding at home, asking them to do their best to induce volunteers to come forward, the Horse Guards were compelled in many cases to fill up vacancies by reappointing officers who had been previously relegated to the retired list. This is not all surprising, as service in the Army Pay Department has been very unpopular of late, and until the grievances of the officers of this department are redressed, it is likely to remain so.

Considering how many libraries already exist within a mile of the Bodleian, the proposal to erect a free one in honour of Dr. Pusey appears uncommonly like carrying coals to Newcastle. However, if £50,000 is to be spent in this way it will, at any rate, benefit the architect and the bookseller, and so be as useful as memorials generally are.

I looked in at the Belt libel case one morning last week. Amongst the busts that crowd the Court there is one of Cardinal Newman, which is admittedly by Verhyden, and it struck me as the best of the lot.

A large hotel is to be built at Morthoe, in North Devon, and negotiations with the landowners have been concluded for the erection of a number of villas and several terraces on the slopes facing the Bay. The air of Morthoe is renowned in the West of England, and its long stretch of sands and its famous shell-coves are likely to render it a most formidable rival to Ilfracombe; but it is to be feared that, in proportion as it increases in public favour, the exceptional features of its coast will disappear, and no doubt in a few years its principal coves will be arranged after the manner of the beauties of Matlock and other "popular" resorts.

I am pleased to hear that there is no truth in the report that Plas Newydd, Lord Anglesey's beautiful place on the Menai Straits, is to be turned into a "retreat" for dipsomaniacs. It would certainly have been a case of a sorry stud in a magnificent stable.

There is a pretty little dispute raging in Liverpool. Mr. Horsfall has offered to build a church in that city, provided that the Clewer Sisters be allowed to work in the district attached to it. Bishop Ryle has refused to assent to the proviso, and as one of the rules of the Sisterhood is not to enter a new diocese without the permission of its Bishop, the refusal is practically a veto upon the erection of the proposed church. Putting aside questions of ritual, etc., on which there may be many opinions, the Sisters are doing much good in charitable work in many English dioceses, and I make no doubt that they would do infinitely more good than harm were they allowed to include Liverpool in the field of their labours.

A master and matron were recently appointed at the Melton Mowbray Workhouse, under the impression that they were man and wife. After a few weeks it was discovered that the wife was a deceased wife's sister. The couple had been legally married in a colony; but some austere moralist among the guardians forwarded a complaint on the subject to the Local Government Board, and Mr. Dodson decided that the unfortunate pair must be dismissed from their posts; but the majority of the guardians decline to take this course, and the place has been thrown into a ferment.

The Married Women's Property Committee and their friends had good reason to congratulate themselves, at their meeting last Saturday, on their exertions; for by the Act which comes into operation next year married women, so far as regards property, are placed in precisely the same position as their husbands. This is right and proper, but it deprives those who advocate giving women votes of their strongest argument. My own impression is that the vast majority of women would prefer not having the suffrage. Much may, no doubt, be said in favour of their being granted it, but more, I think, against it. Most of the male advocates for the former are, I observe, wedded to ladies who entertain strong views upon the subject, and probably this marital zeal is due to the desire to have a quiet life at home.

A BELGIAN MYSTERY.

A case which promises to be famous among the romances of crime is now being heard at Brussels. Last January the body of William Bernays was found in a small room in No. 159, Rue de la Loi, Brussels. For ten months the most searching investigation has been made; the supposed murderer has been captured; but as the mystery remains unexplained the story continues to excite the greatest interest both in Belgium and abroad. William Bernays was a well-known member of the Belgian bar. After a brilliant university career he settled at Antwerp, where he married. On the morning of the 7th of January M. Bernays left his house at eight o'clock, and, as was his daily custom, took his little son to school. He then went to the station and took the train for Brussels. This was the last time he was seen alive by any of his friends. No one knew of his intended journey, and when evening came much astonishment and even alarm was felt at his absence from home. His friends telegraphed in all directions, and even for some days did not despair of his return. But on the 10th of January the circumstances were laid before the police authorities. It was not, however, until the 14th that his disappearance was publicly announced. Some said that he had committed suicide, others that he had been murdered, while one rumour declared that he had retired to a Jesuit convent. On the 18th the Procureur du Roi received a mysterious letter, dated Bâle, January 16, 1882, written in English, and signed "Henry Vaughan." "I was," said the writer, "seized with horror when I read the news respecting M. Bernays." He then went on to tell his story: "Bernays came to see me at my house in Brussels, No. 159, Rue de la Loi, by engagement. While we were talking Bernays's eye fell on a pistol which I had been showing to him. I took it to put it back in its place, when it went off and Bernays fell. I thought him only wounded, and left the room in search of hartshorn and water. Alas! when I returned the blood was flowing from his wound; he was dead, killed by my hand. My first thought was to rush for the coroner, but in my despair I thought of my position. Unknown, a stranger in Brussels, friendless, who would believe my tale? I yielded to the terrible temptation and fled." On receipt of this letter a party of police went to No. 159. The door was burst open. The ground floor was made up of *salon*, *salle-à-manger*, and a small *cabinet*. The two first were unfurnished. The *cabinet* at the end of the vestibule was closed, but the glimmer of yellow light was seen through the crevices of the door. The door was opened, and there stretched on a couch in one corner was the body of Bernays, in a state of decomposition, but easily recognizable. On a small table were a map of Africa, five revolvers, and two boxes of bullets. On the map was a letter addressed to the coroner, signed, as in the first case, "Vaughan," telling how the dead man was killed. Vaughan had taken the house in December, paying six months' rent in advance. It was not until the 6th of January that he had furnished the *cabinet*.

Who Vaughan was no one knew. Twenty-five thousand francs were offered for his apprehension. Then the papers published facsimiles of his autograph and handwriting, and thus furnished a clue. A tradesman of Vervins declared that the writing was that of Léon Peltzer, a Belgian subject, with whom he had had business transactions. Peltzer had three brothers. Armand, the elder, was a bold, adventurous spirit, who had made and lost several fortunes in Buenos Ayres. In this business Léon was concerned. After the utter wreck of his brother's business in 1870 he associated himself with a banking house, which came to grief. One of its directors fled, and Léon was suspected of helping him in his flight. Buenos Ayres became too warm for him, and he was said to have taken ship for Europe. After the identification of the handwriting by the Vervins tradesman, Armand and James Peltzer published a letter in defence of their brother; and according to their tale they wrote to him at San Francisco—his last address—telling him the story and begging him to return. But while writing this letter Armand knew quite well that Léon was hidden on the Belgian frontier, for on the same day that the letter of remonstrance appeared he addressed a telegram to Léon which eventually brought about his arrest. Armand now invoked the aid of a certain Dr. Lavise—an intimate friend of the brothers: "This is a melancholy business. Here I am carrying on a correspondence with a lady and being closely watched; I cannot get her letters from the post-office. Will you help me?" The doctor consented, and for a time telegrams and letters were left at his address. On the 3rd of March, at seven o'clock, a telegram came to Lavise from Vienna:—"Donnez détails surmaladie après consultation. Lettre suivra. Télégraphiez Cologne buffet gare, ou viendrai faire opération. (Signé)—Dr. Lamboss." Upon reflection Lavise concluded that this mysterious message was for Armand. And on the following day he received the letter. This he took to James, asking him to give it to his brother. At ten the same night Armand called and asked him to send a telegram to Cologne:—"Charlotte va mieux. Soyez pas agité, ecrirai même adresse." This he sent off. About one in the morning the Doctor was sitting in his room when Armand came in in great haste, and informed Lavise that the telegram had been misunderstood, and that Léon would arrive that morning. His consternation alarmed the doctor, who had been led to believe that Armand desired nothing so much in the world as the arrival of his brother. He refused to receive Léon Peltzer, but promised to meet him at the station. Pending the arrival of the train he took counsel with his friends, and decided at last to inform the police. Léon was arrested at Cologne on his way to Antwerp. He was committed for trial, and for five months the authorities have been getting up the case against him. This trial promises to be the most remarkable *cause célèbre* of the Belgian bar. No theory of motive has as yet been suggested adequately to account for the crime.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

JOURNALISM AND PUBLIC TASTE.

It is contrary to all human experience that any human propensity should not grow by indulgence, and those who provide newspaper readers with the means of indulging the passion for unworthy forms of journalism must be prepared to accept this result of their enterprise. But is is always easy to exaggerate the extent of the influence of literature upon public taste, and in this particular instance there is, we think, a special liability to this form of error. People who compare the present condition of our newspaper press with its condition some ten or fifteen years ago, and hold up their hands over the growing appetite of the public for what they call the "frivolities and personalities," of contemporary journalism, unconsciously assume that the old state of things left nothing to be desired by the cultivated and intelligent mind, and that any revolt against it must be clearly attributable to the action of the "lower instincts" of humanity. This view of the matter, however, is very much too flattering to the past. The virtues of seriousness and sobriety may, like any other virtues, be pushed to excess. There is no reason in the nature of things why a newspaper should be, or should ever have been, a mere wilderness of bleak fact and cheerless comment; yet this undoubtedly is what too many of the best English newspapers formerly chose to make themselves, and what some of the most conservative of them (spelling the word, be it well understood, without a capital letter) still elect to remain. And not only is there no reason for this in the nature of things, but there is none to be found for it, except in the form of a superstition, in the English character. English "seriousness" in the sense of disdain and dislike for anything approaching to liveliness in the treatment of serious matters is almost as much a figment of the French imagination as English "spleen." A political discussion among Englishmen keeps closer indeed to the facts, and deals less in those "ideas" which are the French euphemism for very wide and very doubtful generalisations, than is common among our neighbours across the Channel; but such discussions, at least among intelligent and educated persons, in England are usually neither more nor less lively than they are in France. They are, at any rate, not characterized by anything like the portentous solemnity which used to be, and in some quarters still is, considered essential to their fitting treatment in the newspaper press, and a public falsely believed to be more passionately enamoured of dulness than it really is was certain sooner or later to resent the imputation in some practical way. Equally certain was it, of course, that the reaction, when it came, would run into excesses, and take questionable directions; but the satisfactory circumstance that the movement is, in part at any rate, a movement of reaction and not one of degeneration remains. It is something, at least, to have reason to believe that those "lower instincts" of which we hear so much in connection with the "demoralisation of journalism" are largely reducible to a single harmless and healthy *nisus*—our own and Mr. Matthew Arnold's old friend the "instinct of self-preservation in mankind." It would doubtless be too optimistic a view to take of the situation to assume that the latest developments of English journalism contain no unhealthy element at all. On the contrary, they do undoubtedly contain such elements, and the tendency which they represent is one that requires to be carefully watched. But it is equally necessary to bear in mind the considerations to which we have adverted, if only as an antidote of desponding prophecies; and there is, moreover, no lack of other encouraging signs. For one thing, it is noticeable that the popular demand for newspaper gossip has not of late shown any marked tendency to augment the supply, and that, while fate has speedily overtaken some of those prints which avowedly came into existence only to supply it, their more reputable survivors have found their account in enlivening their pages in less questionable ways. Mere scandal-mongering has certainly diminished rather than increased within the last few years, and the entertainment provided for the reader is taking the at all events innocent and sometimes the useful form of a lighter and livelier treatment of political and social questions. And in so far as this is the case, this modern movement in English journalism is only displaying the signs of a healthy reaction which can afford with safety to go somewhat further still. There is a mean to be found between the overladen solidity of English and the "factless" superficiality of French journalism; and we see no reason why the English press should not contrive to hit it.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

SIR CHARLES DILKE ON THE PROSPECT OF LEGISLATION.

The annual dinner of the Chelsea Eleusis Club, which was held on Wednesday night, was attended by both the members for the borough. Sir Charles Dilke congratulated the company that at last the procedure resolutions were nearly carried, and said that although there were a few Radicals who were opposed to the proposals of the Government, yet he did not see how any good Radical could desire that parliamentary procedure should be continued in its present condition of hopeless disorder. The Liberals had been taunted with desiring these rules only to secure the passing of their own measures. Of course they did. They would not have gone through all they had done if it were not to secure some good end and to ensure that work should be done. By that he meant that the work should be in accordance with their own ideas, if they could persuade the constituencies of the soundness of their views. He admitted that the resolutions which had for their object the relegation of some portion of the work of the House of Commons to great representative bodies were purely experimental; but he believed that the experiment was likely to be so successful that in the future it would be extended still further. No one knew yet, so far as I am aware, whether next session would see the introduction of a measure for the equalization of the borough and county franchise; but they ought to determine that this question should be dealt with before the next general election. Whether the reform of London government or the Corrupt Practices Bill were placed first on the order of business for next year, it was certain that the latter would be pushed forward, for it was a disgrace that elections should be decided by means of absolute corruption. He did not know whether anything could be done next session with regard to the City Companies; but there were several important subjects, such as the bankruptcy and patent laws, which demanded attention. Then the present condition of county government was altogether behind the age; yet he believed it would be better not to touch the question at all than to deal with it imperfectly. If we could not have county boards freely elected, the same as the municipal institutions of the country, then he was contented to let the matter rest for a while. He believed they were gaining ground in the direction of their political principles more rapidly now than at any time in the history of the country. No doubt they owed much to the personal influence of Mr. Gladstone; but even Mr. Gladstone himself would be the first to admit that there was something greater than his stupendous genius, and that was the essential truth and justice of the principles of which he was the foremost advocate.

RECEPTION AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

The Marquis of Hartington, Secretary of State for India, had an evening party at the Foreign Office on Wednesday night to meet the officers of the Indian Army who served with the contingent in Egypt. There was a very large gathering. The grand staircase was beautifully arranged with rare plants, and at the foot the full band of the Royal Regiment of Artillery played during the reception. Some of the non-commissioned officers of the Indian contingent, in their picturesque uniforms, were stationed about the grand staircase. The Indian officers, accompanied by Lieut.-Colonel Pennington, arrived at ten o'clock. The Duke of Cambridge, attended by Colonel Bateson, honoured the Marquess of Hartington by his company. General Lord and Lady Wolseley arrived about eleven o'clock, and on passing up the staircase the military band played "See the Conquering Hero comes." All the state rooms were thrown open, two apartments being appropriated for refreshments. Carriages set down company both at the Downing-street and Park entrances. The Turkish Ambassador and daughters, the Ministers of Spain, Portugal, Greece, Sweden, Netherlands, China, Japan, and Roumania, were among the guests; also the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, Count and Countess d'Aunay, M. Hengelmuller, Count and Countess Steenbock, and many other foreigners of distinction. The general company included the Duchess of Bedford and Lady Ermyntrude Russell, the Duchess of Manchester, the Marquess of Northhampton and Lady Compton, the Marquess of Ailesbury, Countess Granville, the Earl and Countess of Morley, Earl Compton, Field Marshal Lord Strathnairn, Lord and Lady Wolseley, the Lord Chancellor and Hon. Miss Palmer, Lord and Lady Sudeley, Lord and Lady Burghley, Lord Charles Montagu, General Lord Mark Kerr, the Speaker and Hon. Lady Brand, Mr. G. J. and Mrs. Goschen, Sir R. A. Cross, M.P., Sir William and Lady Vernon Harcourt, Mr. J. Mundella, M.P., and Mrs. Mundella, and a great many members of the House of Commons.

SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOTE.

The Exeter Conservative Working Men's Union having passed a resolution expressing warm sympathy with Sir Stafford Northcote, and a fervent hope that his contemplated trip will re-establish his impaired health, and enable him to return with renewed vigour to his present distinguished and responsible position, the right hon. gentleman has replied to the secretary as follows:—

30, St. James's-place, S.W., Nov. 20, 1882.

Dear Sir,—Pray convey my best thanks to my kind friends of Exeter, and assure them that I am much touched by their words of sympathy. You must not suppose that I am seriously ill at present. I am thoroughly over-tired, and every slight attack tells upon me so much that, unless I can get some real and entire rest, I shall be quite unfit for work next Session. I have every reason to hope that a couple of months will set me up again and that I shall be able to take my proper share in what is likely to be a stiff year's work. I look on next year as likely to be a very critical one for the Conservatives, and we must all be prepared to fight our best for the cause both in and out of Parliament. With energy and prudence I have no fear for the result. Believe me, yours very faithfully,

Mr. J. Gould. STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

Sir Stafford embarks on *Saturday* on board the *Pandora*, Mr. W. H. Smith's yacht, at Southampton, for Gibraltar, and thence will proceed to Palermo, the yacht touching at several of the Mediterranean ports. Mr. H. S. Northcote, M.P., and Mr. and Mrs. F. Shelley will accompany Sir Stafford, and at Villa Franca, near Nice, the yacht will be joined by Lady Northcote and the Hon. E. and Mrs. Stanhope.

A RAFT WITH DEAD BODIES OFF THE NORFOLK COAST.—Intelligence received at Lloyd's from the Board of Trade states that Captain John Davis, of the *Dora*, of Sunderland, reports when off Hasboro on the 16th inst., at noon, Hasboro light vessel bearing east-south-east, and the wind in the east, blowing a strong gale, with a high cross sea, he passed a large raft securely fastened with ropes, which appeared to have three or four dead bodies lashed to it, the sea washing over them. The raft could not be secured in consequence of the gale and high sea prevailing.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 23—24, 1882.

THE ARREARS BILL.

Although the Government have no reason to complain of the result of Thursday night's Debate upon the issues specifically raised, it does not follow that they can be legitimately congratulated upon the more general consequences of their Irish policy. It is not really the failure or the success of the Arrears Act itself which is now being discussed; it is the success or failure of the system of alternate concession and coercion pursued by the Government in Ireland. The Arrears Act was not primarily designed as a measure of agrarian relief; it was a political bill, passed for purely political purposes. Incidentally it was hoped that it might have the effect of ameliorating the condition of the Irish tenants; essentially, its object was to produce the subsidence of a political agitation. The truth about the bill was very fairly stated by Mr. Forster when he said that he never expected the Act would have such universal application as was supposed by some, and that there were cases in the West of Ireland in which it was utterly impossible for the poor people to live in their holdings unless they were paid to do so. "The House," he added, "must not be misled by the case of these poor people, because it could not be met by the Arrears Bill." Mr. Gibson spoke to much the same salutary effect. Like the late Chief Secretary for Ireland, he looked the facts of the case boldly in the face, and, admitting that the Arrears Act had fallen somewhat flat, he gave the Government to understand that it was not by the administration of such sops as the Arrears Act that the pacification of Ireland was to be effected. The great source of mischief and misfortune to the country is the habit formed by the present Government of keeping Ireland, to use Mr. Gibson's words, "in a state of uncertainty and hot water, leaving her a prey to wretched agitation; using vague language about the Arrears Act, or hesitating language about the Land Act." The language employed by the Prime Minister on Thursday night on the former of these measures had, at least, the merit of definiteness, and his steady adherence to it in practice will be interpreted as a sign of good omen by all who have at heart the true interests of Ireland. That unhappy country unquestionably owes most of its calamities to the weakness and vacillation of its rulers, and the encouragement, which these qualities have given to its worst enemies — the pseudo-patriots and professional agitators. —*Standard.*

THE ELECTIONS.

If the political activity of the country were to be measured by the number of political events, the present moment would deserve to be reckoned one of the most exciting epochs since the general election. That, however, is far from being a legitimate inference, and it would be truer to say that Fortune, *ludum insolentem ludere pertinax*, is taking a pleasure in crowding political occurrences one upon another at the very time when no real question is before the constituencies. An Autumn Session, the first for many years, is importing into November the struggles of February. By-elections are following one another like waves of the sea. No sooner does the Leader of the Opposition in the Commons seek leave of absence and the repose of a southern clime than his warlike colleague in the Lords invades what he calls "the metropolis of Liberalism," and unfurls the Conservative flag in Edinburgh itself. By-elections have always an interest out of proportion to their real political significance. There is always a strong element of uncertainty in them; and if in any case the verdict of a former election is reversed, the winning side all over the country is jubilant, and sees in the change of mind of fifty unintelligent householders conclusive proof that "the nation" has changed also. An opposition victory like that which Lord Salisbury calls "the event which happened in Wiltshire" is enough to put fresh spirit into a party even as much in a minority as the Conservative party is to-day. From the Preston election, as from the recent Edinburgh election, neither side can draw much comfort. At Preston both the candidates were professed Conservatives; the one a local man, with influence among the artisans, the other a former member of Parliament, whose career as the representative of Tamworth and North Staffordshire was quite such as to give colour to the promise which he is reported to have made, that he would, if elected, be "a thorn in the side of Mr. Gladstone." The large majority for Mr. Tomlinson probably signifies that a great number of Liberals voted for him. This, then, is no party victory, but Lancashire will shortly see two other elections, where the strength of parties will pobably be tested in a more orthodox fashion. The elevation of Lord Sandon to the Peerage is likely to lead to a contest for Liverpool, and the success of Mr. Winn's motion last night will give us an immediate election for Wigan. Meantime, the most interesting of all the contests is well begun at Cambridge. A University election is like a boat-race; it, alone among contests in these days of the ballot-box, can be watched from start to finish. Like a boat-race, too, it is in the main a contest of endurance, for at first, and until half the course is covered, there is generally but little difference between the rivals. Mr. Raikes, however, held on Thursday a lead which seems sufficient to show which way the struggle will end. Mr. Stuart is, to our thinking, better fitted than his opponent to represent a University, for he combines with a great knowledge of the University itself an intimate practical acquaintance with the educational needs of the large towns of England. But if the constituency is mainly Tory, nothing will prevent its choosing a Tory candidate; and perhaps it would have been wiser if this reflection had prevented the more ardent opponents of Mr. Raikes from importing into the controversy so bitter a personal element as has actually found a place.—*Times.*

THE STATE OF EGYPT.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Daily News* telegraphed on Thursday night:—

Major Chernside, with Mr. Beaman, an accomplished young official in the diplomatic service, proceeded this morning to Zagazig to inquire into the state of the prisons. It is hoped that the inquiry will extend to their past condition, the statements regarding which, as telegraphed to you, have been denied here with more insolence than force. Ahmed Bey, Shemshi's son, who has arrived here, informs the counsul that for some time past his father has had little reason to complain with regard to his treatment. Shemshi will probably be brought to Cairo for trial in a few days.

This morning some of the political prisoners in the Cairo gaol were released, an act upon which the Government deserves to be congratulated, but the same measure of justice should, without delay, be extended to numbers of others who, like those whose names I telegraphed you yesterday as being confined at Zagazig, are detained in gaol on the flimsiest pretexts.

Mahmoud Samy, upon whom the Ministry forced a native lawyer, it at last permitted to retain the service of an English counsel. As ex-Prime Minister Samy's evidence is expected to be of great political interest. He has had an interview with his counsel today.

In spite of the declarations published here, it appears that Hassan Mousan Akkad, Suleiman Bey's fellow captive, said nothing before the Court either for or against Arabi Pacha.

In reference to the Parliamentary questions in the papers received by this mail, I have to say that the procedure rules were, and still are, practically set aside, witnesses being examined in the absence of the accused and their counsel.

Some excitement is being caused here by the report that the recruits are refusing to proceed to the Soudan unless commanded by Arabi Pacha.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Thursday night:—

The Commission of Inquiry pretend that the native advocate retained by Suleiman Sami, having most opportunely fallen sick, cannot be trusted to give his client trustworthy service. They, therefore, permit Mr. Broadley to defend this distinguished prisoner, whose statement is likely to furnish a strong link in the chain of evidence needed for the exculpation of Arabi. Nobody here affects to misunderstand the motives which have inspired the generosity of the Commission. At the same time, I must say that in one respect the Commission is still obstinate and unyielding. It persists in violating the agreement concluded with Arabi's Counsel with a view to subjecting all witnesses to searching examination and cross-examination. It has, however, consented to suspend the Decree fixing the date of the trial—which it now proposes to begin eight days after the Counsel for the defence have been furnished with the pleadings of the prosecution. With the Commission rests the decision of when this must take place, so that it practically can determine when the proceedings against Arabi in Court shall begin. The procrastination displayed by this unique tribunal already leads people here to think that the trial in serious earnest will not be entered on before the 8th of December. In spite of official assertions to the contrary, I am informed on good authority that Moussa Akayd does not quite confirm the story as to the massacres told in Suleiman Sami's depositions. It is strange that this story has not been promptly put into the possession of Counsel for the defence, though it has been semi-officially communicated to the papers. That fact does not strengthen the evidence. The local papers seem just now to be specially hired to vilify the imprisoned rebels.

THE MONEY MARKET.

Owing to the apprehension that gold will be withdrawn from the Bank of England for export to New York, there has been a marked rise during the past few days in the rates paid for the use of loanable capital in the short loan market of London. Only a week ago the rate of discount in the open market was 3¼ per cent., and on Wednesday it had risen to 4 per cent.:—

On Thursday, as gold had not been sent, there was a slight reduction in the rate, but still the rise since Monday has been considerable. As we have said, no gold has as yet been sent; but as there is a profit on sending it, it seems reasonable to expect that it will be shipped. Apparently, there are no debtors in this country who have to make payments in New York, and find that it is cheaper and more convenient to make the payments in gold than in any other way, and for the moment the profit upon sending gold is not sufficient to tempt speculators to ship it. But there is a general opinion that the rate of interest in New York is rising so high that it will be worth the while of capitalists here to send out gold to New York for the purpose of employing it there. We read, for example, that this week 20, 30, and even 40 per cent. has been paid by speculators in Stock Exchange securities for loans for a day. Of course rates such as these, if maintained for any length of time, would be ruinous, and would put an end to speculation. Even for a day or two they could have been paid only by a few of the neediest speculators; but still that in any case such rates could have been exacted seems a proof that the supply of loanable capital in New York is very small. Just now there is a great demand for currency in the interior of the country because the harvest has been most abundant and trade is very active, and therefore the loan market of New York is gradually being drained, and the expectation is that a supply will have to be taken from London to meet the demand. At the same time, we do not think it probable that much gold will be sent to New York. The very fact that the rate of exchange has fallen so low that gold might have been profitably sent during the past two or three days, and yet has not been sent, is proof that the demand for it is to a large extent artificial. And since there is no debt due by England to the United States, the amount to be sent cannot be very large, especially as the United States must now be very nearly fully supplied with currency. An American telegram states that the Treasury estimates the total amount of gold and silver in the United States at present at over 155 millions sterling. The need, therefore, for gold must be very temporary and small.—*Daily News.*

SIR THOMAS WATSON, BART.—Gradually increasing weakness is the only change to report in Sir Thomas Watson's condition during the past week. He still retains consciousness, and was much pleased to receive a kind message from a distant medical friend. —*The Lancet.*

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Sir W. LAWSON gave notice of his intention to move that the papers laid before Parliament fail to establish satisfactory ground for our late military operations in Egypt, and intimated also that he will ask the Prime Minister for a day.

A new writ being moved for Wigan, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL expressed a hope that the refusal of the House at the end of last Session to grant a Commission of Inquiry, after the report of the Judge that bribery, etc., had extensively prevailed, would not be drawn into a precedent. Sir R. Cross also expressed a hope that the precedent of withholding a writ after the House had refused a Commission would never be repeated; Mr. Gorst and Mr. C. Lewis also severely blamed the course pursued by the Attorney-General in this matter. Sir G. Campbell expressed an opinion that to issue the writ without an inquiry was a scandal, and after some observations from Sir William Harcourt and Mr. Lowther, the writ was ordered to be issued.

THE ALLEGED FAILURE OF THE ARREARS ACT.

There were 44 questions on the paper, but only the last two were of urgent interest. They stood in the names of Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett and Mr. Parnell, and related to the alleged failure of the Arrears Act and the intentions of the Government as to its amendment during the present Session. Mr. Gladstone, in reply, said that the Commissioners were of opinion that the Act was not a failure, and that the number of tenants who would benefit by an extension of the time would be very small, and he added that the number of evictions during the last few weeks had fallen off in a marked degree. Being of opinion that uncertainty would be injurious, and that it was best for all parties that the fact should be known at once, he said the Government had no intention of making any proposal to extend the time fixed by the Act for lodging the rent for 1881, and as to the costs, the point had been raised in Committee on the Act, and the Committee had declined to make any provision on the subject.

Mr. PARNELL then said that as this was a "definite matter of urgent public importance," he asked leave under Rule 2 to move the adjournment of the House.

The SPEAKER put it to the House—"Is it your pleasure that Mr. Parnell be now heard?" There were general cries of "Aye," but a few "Noes" being mingled with them, the Speaker said, "I must ask the hon. member whether 40 members are ready to stand up to support his request." Thereupon more than 100 members below the gangways rose on both sides, including all the Irish party, many of the English and Scotch Radicals, and the Fourth Party.

Mr. PARNELL then proceeded to move the adjournment of the House. He stated in detail his reasons for urging the Government to amend the Arrears Act. Though he would not call it a total failure, it was a partial failure, owing to the limited period allowed the tenant for lodging the rent for 1881, and also because of the uncertainty as to the exact amount of rent due, in the absence of any decision on the "hanging gale" clause. He also urged that provision should be made out of the Church Fund for the costs incurred in proceedings or ejectments, and for the recovery of arrears which the tenant had been proved unable to pay.

After some remarks from Colonel Colthurst, pressing on the Government the necessity of being prepared to deal with the coming distress, Mr. Newdegate censured the attempt to divert the business from its regular course, and Mr. Sexton maintained that the Act was a total failure, as was shown by the fact that only 16,000 applications, involving a quarter of a million of arrears, had been put in. Mr. T. P. O'Connor and Mr. Leamy spoke in the same strain, and Mr. C. Russell also was of opinion that the anticipations formed of the Arrears Act had not been realised, as was shown by the figures, and that an extension of time, on reasonable conditions, would enable a large class of deserving and respectable tenants to avail themselves of the Act.

Mr. FORSTER, speaking first of the anticipated distress, expressed an opinion that the apprehensions of the Irish members were exaggerated, and remarked, as to the Act, that he had never anticipated that many tenants would avail themselves of it, because he had always held that the amount of arrears had been over-stated. Neither did he believe that tenants who wished and who were in a position to take advantage of the Act would be deterred by the hanging-gale clause, but it would be a cruel service in the tenants to encourage them to look for further exceptional legislation or to leave them in any uncertainty.

Mr. RICHARDSON said he had not received a single letter from his constituents in Armagh on this question of arrears, but though he would vote for any extension of time which the Government might propose, he believed there would still be a large number of tenants who would neglect to avail themselves of it.

Mr. O'KELLY spoke of the urgency of the distress in Roscommon.

Mr. TREVELYAN said that the fears expressed by the Irish members as to the failure of the Arrears Act were not shared by the Government or the Land Commissioners. As early as October 21, he said, the Commissioners, speaking from their experience of the Land Act, had predicted that the greatest number of applications would come in at the eleventh hour. Every precaution had been taken to bring the Act to the knowledge of the tenants all over Ireland, and he believed that the bulk of the applications would be made at the last moment, and that the cases excluded by the hanging-gale clause would be very few indeed. As to the financial comparisons which had been instituted, he regarded them as of slight importance, for the test of the Act must be its capacity to put all the tenants likely to keep their heads above water in a position to go into the Land Court, and on that point the Government had seen no reason to change their opinion. As the next six days and the next six weeks were critical, it was important that the Irish tenants should understand clearly that whatever arrangements were necessary to bring them within the Act must be made within the periods specified. As to costs, he said that Mr. Parnell's proposal would give the Irish tenant more than he had a right to anticipate; and on the matter of evictions, he pointed out that by the Land Act and the Arrears Act a most powerful machinery to check them had been set up, as was shown by their gradual decrease during the last few months. With regard to the distress, he said the Government had left no stone unturned to obtain information; and, if necessary, they would be prepared to issue a circular which would instruct the guardians, when the rates had failed, where to look for funds. But they had come to the conclusion that relief by public works was an extravagant and demoralizing system, and they would sanction no public works for the relief of distress which would not otherwise be undertaken. But he was able to give the most positive assurance that the people would not be allowed to starve.

Mr. GIBSON was of opinion that though there had been difficulties and confusion in the administration of the Act, it certainly had not failed, and he maintained that neither the House of Lords nor the Irish landlords were responsible for those difficulties. He traced them rather to the adoption of the "gift" rather than the "loan" principle in the Act. He feared there would be some distress in the West, and rejoiced to find that the Irish Secretary was alive to his responsibility.

Colonel NOLAN expressed his regret that the Government had decided against public works, and Mr. O'Connor Power, who took the same view, declaimed against Dublin officialism, and Sir P. O'Brien and Mr. O'Donnell also spoke on the same side.

Mr. LEA regretted that the time in the Act had not been extended.

Mr. BLAKE dwelt on the importance of promoting the Fisheries Industry, and after some remarks from Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. Parnell withdrew the motion.

Mr. YORKE having again asked whether the Government would give facilities for his motion on the Kilmainham Treaty, Mr. Gladstone said he had nothing to add to his former answer.

PROCEDURE.

The House then passed to the Procedure Resolutions, and commenced the consideration of the 10th Resolution, which empowers the Speaker to refuse to put a motion for adjournment if he thinks it made for the purpose of obstruction.

A proposal by Mr. Gorst that the Speaker shall be of opinion that the motion is obstructive in the general sense of the House was negatived by 103 to 37; but Mr. Gladstone accepted an amendment from the same quarter, substituting "abuse of the rules" for "obstruction." After some further discussion the resolution was agreed to by 82 to 26.

The House adjourned at ten minutes to 1 o'clock.

LORD SALISBURY AT EDINBURGH.

Lord Salisbury was entertained at dinner in Edinburgh last evening by the Conservatives of the city and district. He adverted at some length to the campaign in Egypt, which he regarded with satisfaction so far as it had tended to restore the military credit of this country. He said he would look on recent events with an indulgent eye, if, in the arrangements about to be made, care was taken that we should not cease to be the predominant Power in Egypt. He then went on to say:—I hope we have taken a new departure in Liberal politics. I wish that for the future any Minister who cares about British interests, and thinks it right to go to war in their defence, will not be subject to denunciation on the part of the Liberal party for doing so. After the bombardment of Alexandria it will be impossible for any Liberal Government to limit, as they have done in the past, the rights of national self-defence. With respect to the end of the war we have yet to wait. We do not know what the present negotiations may bring forth. We must suspend our judgment until we see what the result will be. I confess that I should be inclined to look on all these circumstances to which I have adverted with a very indulgent eye if the result of the negotiations which are impending should be to extend the strength, the power, and the predominant influence of Great Britain; for I am old-fashioned enough to believe in that empire and to believe in its greatness. (Cheers.) I believe that whenever it has been extended it has conferred unnumbered benefits upon those who have been brought within its sway, and that the extension of the empire so far from being the desire of selfishness or acquisitiveness, as it has been represented to be, or deserving to be compared to acts of plundering in private life, is in reality a desire not only to extend the commerce and to strengthen the power of our Government here at home but to give to others those blessings of freedom and order which we have always prized to maintain amongst ourselves. (Cheers.) Referring to the Irish question, the noble marquis said: The Government will now tell you that the present quietude of Ireland is due to their remedial measures. Their remedial measures were introduced in the spring of last year. The outrages in Ireland went on in an increasing ratio until they culminated in the deaths of Lord Frederick Cavendish and Mr. Burke. Then came the other policy. Then came a real, genuine attempt to re-establish order, and to enforce the administration of justice, and no sooner was that passed by Parliament and executed with even moderate firmness by the Administration of the day than at once outrages diminished and the peace of Ireland began to amend. (Cheers.) In the face of these facts, it is ridiculous to tell me that it is what they call the remedial measure of the Government that has produced the improvement of which they speak. (Cheers.) I do not at all deny that it was very desirable to introduce remedial measures, but I should not have counselled the trying of remedial measures which have only had the effect of destroying all confidence in the country and of driving capital from the land. I should not have counselled measures which destroy the confidence of every landholder in the security of his own property and introduce causes of dispute between landlord and tenant. If you were to do anything which should be in the direction of an effort, no matter of how small a kind—because in such a matter you need not move fast—an effort to have bound to the fortunes of the Empire a larger proportion of the population by the links of ownership, I should have counselled such an effort. (Cheers.) But unfortunately the hope of that has been dissipated by two causes. The fund from which it should have been done—the Irish Church fund—has been sacrificed to an absurd Arrears Bill. (Cheers.) And the tenants have been prevented from any effort to become owners by purchase by being offered a more eligible fate. (Cheers.) Nobody who can get his land by bullying will care to take it by buying. (Cheers.) They have learned the lesson that agitation will bring them what they want, and soon they will unlearn that lesson, and take a more humble and more honest course. (Cheers.) We have before us these two difficulties of Egypt and Ireland, which have not reflected much credit on the Government, and they have had to adopt modes of action, borrowed very much from the advice of their political opponents—(hear, hear)—and that necessity will affect their policy in other matters. (Cheers.) We have heard it is said by distinguished authorities that there are Liberals and Liberals. I should prefer to say that the Liberals are not a party, they are an alliance or a confederation—(laughter and cheers)—and it is necessary that each member of the alliance should have something in order to bind him to the common standard. (Cheers.) Now hitherto it has been one of the great merits of the present Prime Minister that he has been absolutely vague and mysterious in language—(laughter and cheers)—to insinuate promises which may go as far as your imagination pleases to wander, and which yet if grammatically tested, bind him to scarcely anything at all. (Laughter and cheers.) Now we have before us the instance of the unfortunate Quaker. (Laughter.) I suppose if the election of 1880 conveyed any lesson at all, it was to assure the members of the Society of Friends that they were safe for the future from all wars waged for the purpose of securing British interests or keeping open the route to India—(cheers)—and we see by the secession of their eminent representative how deep their disappointment has been. (Laughter and cheers.) I have no doubt if you examine the language of Mr. Gladstone you will find nothing in it which absolutely binds him to the construction of the Quakers. (Hear, hear.) But that is the marvellous skill and cleverness of the man. (Cheers.) He can keep the word of promise to the ear and break it to the hope. (Cheers.) There are others who have been fed upon the same food, but have not yet been subject to the same disenchantment. We don't know what is reserved for them. Whether the word of promise is to be kept to the ear or to the hope. For instance, there are those who desire the disestablishment of the Church of Scotland. Read over the speeches of Mr. Gladstone, and they will certainly convey to you the idea that although he undertook what it was not necessary he should undertake—not to disestablish the Church without a parliamentary majority, for the purpose of enabling him to do so—(laughter)—though he undertook expressly not to smuggle the Church of Scotland out of existence, still his general intention was to accomplish that desirable reform whenever he had an opportunity. I have not a notion which of the two interpretations he intends in practice to give to his words, and I have a shrewd suspicion that he does not know more than I do. (Loud laughter and cheers.) He is perfectly ready to sail north or to sail south, but he cannot tell you what he will do until you tell him which way the wind will blow. (Renewed laughter and cheers.) Well, then, there is the case of the farmer—he uses language which may mean the rankest Communism, or may mean merely such mitigations of the law as few Conservatives would refuse to consider, but I am told that within the last few weeks the Government have shown a strong inclination to get up a small Ireland in the West of Scotland. (Laughter.) I am not the least surprised that they should do so. Ireland has been very useful to them, and if they can only multiply a country in which they might first say force was no remedy, and then afterwards, when it was quite evident that nothing would succeed but force, pass coercion measures. Such countries would tend to the longevity of an Administration, and would be multiplied by every Minister who respects the prospects of his own colleagues. (Laughter and cheers.) In conclusion, the noble marquis said—Generally, we have this consolation, that we know that since Mr. Gladstone introduced his Land Bill we have won several seats and have not lost one —(hear, hear, and cheers)—and we also know that in important matters of policy the Government found it necessary to borrow the principles of the Opposition.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

PRESTON.

The polling at Preston took place on Thursday. The greatest interest was taken in the event, and from the hour at which the poll opened the streets were crowded. Mr. Tomlinson had a great number of cabs employed all day. This was the most warmly contested election in Preston for many years, but the proceedings were conducted in a most orderly manner. A great number went to poll from eight in the morning till the breakfast hour, and again at the dinner hour. Affairs were quiet after that time till the close of the poll, when the boxes were taken to the Town Hall and the votes were counted. At seven o'clock the result was declared as follows:—

Mr. Tomlinson	6,231
Mr. Hanbury	4,167
Majority	2,184

The result was received with great cheering, and on the part of Mr. Hanbury's supporters with counter demonstrations. The majority has greatly surprised most people. Mr. Tomlinson, though a Conservative, had the support of the Liberal Party.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.

The polling opened on Thursday morning, the Vice-Chancellor taking the votes in the Senate House, the Master of St. John's those given in the Law School, and Professor Cayley those in the Art School. The proceedings consisted mainly in the reading of voting papers by the proxies, who presented batches of ten from either side alternately. The polling proceeded steadily throughout the seven hours allowed for it, the majority of votes being given by proxy. Amongst them were those of Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. Campbell Bannerman for Professor Stuart, whilst Mr. Fawcett voted in person on the same side. According to the state of the poll published from hour to hour by the Conservative Committee, Mr. Raikes was in front from the first, and steadily gained on his rival to the close of the poll at six o'clock, when the respective numbers were:—

Mr. H. Cecil Raikes	527
Professor Stuart	436

The numbers given do not in any way indicate the relative strength of parties. The difference between the candidates arises principally from the votes given in person.

The polling was resumed at ten o'clock on Friday morning, and at eleven o'clock the following return was made of the state of the poll:—

Right Hon. H. C. Raikes (C.)	580
Professor James Stuart (L.)	479

POLITICAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

The Queen has approved the appointment of Major-General Sir W. Jervis, R.E., G.C.M.G., C.B., Governor of South Australia, to be Governor of New Zealand in the place of the Hon. Sir A. Gordon, G.C.M.G., who is about to retire from that Government; and the appointment of Sir W. Robinson, K.C.M.G., Governor of Western Australia, to be Governor of South Australia.

We regret to learn that Sir John Lambert, K.C.B., has resigned his office of permanent secretary of the Local Government Board. He will be succeeded by Mr. Hugh Owen, barrister-at-law, one of the assistant secretaries of the Department.

We hear that Lord Granville has appointed Tuesday next at three o'clock to receive a deputation from the Madagascar Committee.

The Madagascar Committee have issued an address to the public, in which they examine and contest the claims of the French to exercise jurisdiction on the northern and north-west coasts of Madagascar. They complain that the Envoys now in Paris are threatened that unless they accede to these claims "French ships will take possession of their ports, and will then, by right of conquest, claim the sovereignty of the island." After setting forth the religious and commercial interests which England has in Madagascar, they declare that the acquisition by France of the north-west province will inevitably lead to a revival of the slave trade on that coast, and ask that the Government will use its influence with France "so that the Malgasy people may be preserved in possession of their rights, and that, freed from foreign aggression, they may be allowed still to pursue that path of progress and enlightenment in which they have made such remarkable advances for the last twenty years."

We learn that Mr. Dillwyn has given private notice of his intention to ask the Under-Secretary for the Colonies on Monday whether the Government have received from Sir H. Bulwer the despatch in which he makes his proposals with reference to the mode and time of Cetewayo's reinstatement as ruler of Zululand; and, if so, whether he will lay it on the table of the House.

The appointment, on acceptance of which Mr. Grenfell vacated his seat for Salisbury, was that known as Parliamentary Groom-in-Waiting. As this post is always held by a gentleman having a seat in the House of Commons, it will be necessary that Mr. Grenfell should either obtain a seat elsewhere or resign the appointment.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

Encouraged by the success which attended Mr. Parnell's motion for the adjournment of the House on Thursday night, other members are attempting to organise combinations for the purpose of raising debates on other questions. Mr. Yorke will probably endeavour to move the adjournment of the House, in order to call attention to the way in which Mr. Gladstone has evaded the Motion for an inquiry into the Kilmainham Treaty, and we hear that an effort will be made by a section of the Radicals to secure a discussion of the Egyptian policy of the Government on a Motion for the adjournment.

We believe that the attention of the United States Government has been directed to the claims put forward by the French Government with regard to the island of Madagascar. There is a considerable number of American subjects in the island.

INVESTITURE BY THE QUEEN.

The ceremonials in connection with the return of the troops from Egypt culminated on Friday afternoon in the investiture by the Queen of the Orders of the Bath, the Star of India, St. Michael and St. George, and the Indian Empire, on those officers of the army and navy whose names were published in the *Gazette* of Friday last. Most of the officers left town by a special train from Paddington at ten minutes past one, which arrived at Windsor a few minutes before two o'clock. Here a small knot of spectators were gathered, attracted by seeing some dozen Royal carriages on their way from the mews to the railway station, but in the town itself there was very little interest displayed beyond a thin fringe of people lining either side of Castle-hill. Amongst the brilliant group of officers who arrived were General Sir John Adye, General Sir E. H. Hamley, General Willis, and General Drury-Lowe, Brigadier General Goodenough, General Sir Henry Daly, Field Marshal Lord Strathnairn (Gold Stick), Admiral Dowell, Admiral Hoskins, Major-General Macpherson, Colonel the Hon. Paul Methuen, Colonel Clive (Officer of Brigade of Guards in waiting), Colonel Tewson, R.M.L.I., Colonel Borrodale, R.A., Colonel Nairn, R.A., Colonel Stevenson, Captain Rawson, R.N., Captain D'Arcy Irvine, Colonel Pennington, and one Indian officer, Colonel Webber, Brigadier General Wilkinson, Colonel Redvers Buller, V.C., Colonel Macnaughten, Colonel Sir J. M. C. M'Neill, and Sir Oriel Turner. By the same train also came Sir Albert Woods, Garter Principal King of Arms, the Earl of Kenmore, Lord Chamberlain, and Mr. Ponsonby Fane. Most of the party were driven up to the Castle, entering by the door of the Great Hall, in the Quadrangle. In accordance with etiquette upon such occasions none of the officers wore any decorations. The officers and men of the Indian Contingent, in charge of Captain Macbay, reached Windsor from Wimbledon about the same time, and drove to the Castle in private omnibuses. At half-past two a guard of honour of the Coldstream Guards marched into the Quadrangle, headed by their band, and took up position facing the north. Precisely at three o'clock a Royal salute and the sounds of the National Anthem announced that her Majesty the Queen had entered the grand Reception Room in which the ceremony was to take place. Her Majesty was accompanied by Princess Christian, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and Princess Beatrice; and attended by Lord Strathnairn; Colonel Duncombe, General Du Plat, the Marchioness of Waterford, the Duchess of Bedford, the Marchioness of Ely, the Honourable Miss Titt, the Honourable Miss Lambert, Captain Bigge, Major-General Sir J. Cowell, the Lord Chamberlain, Sir Henry Ponsonby, and the other members of the Court. On reaching the Reception Room the ceremony was at once commenced. First to be introduced by the Lord Chamberlain to the presence of the Sovereign was Sir J. Adye, who was invested by the Queen with the Riband and Badge of the Military Division of the First Class of the Bath, her Majesty placing the Riband over the right shoulder obliquely to the left, at the same time handing him the Star of his dignity in the Order. Next the Queen knighted and invested with the Second Class (or K.C.B.) Admiral Dowell, General Willis, and Sir E. Hamley, Admiral Hoskins, Major-Gen. Drury-Lowe, Colonels Nugent Tanner, and Sir J. C. M'Neill. Major General Macpherson was then introducod, and was invested by the Queen with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Star of India, similar rank in the order of St. Michael and St. George being next cooferred on Colonel Redvers Buller, V.C. The 35 officers selected to receive the honour of the Companionship of the Bath were next introduced, headed by Captain D'Arcy Irvine and the Duke of Connaught, and the Queen affixed to their left breast the decoration of the Military Division of the Third Class. The ceremony was brought to a close by the decoration of three officers with the badge of the Companionship of St. Michael and St. George, and two of the Indian officers with the badge of the Indian Empire.

During the ceremony, which lasted half an hour, the non-commissioned officers and men of the Indian Contingent acted as a special guard of honour to the Queen. As her Majesty left the reception room at about half-past three, the band again played the National Anthem, and the guard of honour saluted. The majority of the newly-decorated officers returned at once to London, but several remained at the Castle as the guests of her Majesty.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

The condition of the Archbishop of Canterbury showed no improvement on Thursday, but rather a retrograde movement, as the relapse which took place when the cold weather set in a few days since was more pronounced, his strength showing a slight diminution. Dr. Alfred Carpenter called at Addington Park in the morning, and at one o'clock in the afternoon issued the following bulletin:—"The Archbishop's strength is somewhat diminished. He does not suffer any severe pain. He sleeps for short periods, and takes nourishment fairly, and his mental powers are quite unimpaired." There is no anticipation of any immediate danger. The Archbishop's family are with him, and he converses freely, but does not now transact any official business. Her Majesty again telegraphed on Thursday her wish that she should be supplied with the latest information, and each bulletin is sent to the Queen as soon as issued. On Thursday inquiries were numerous at the residence of the Archbishop from all official and many private quarters. For the first time for some weeks, Dr. Carpenter again slept at Addington Park on Thursday night, so as to be within call in case of necessity.

THE MAJORITY OF LORD DUNGARVAN.—The festivities consequent on the coming of age of Lord Dungarvan, eldest son of the Earl of Cork, the Master of the Royal Buckhounds, and Lord Lieutenant of Somersetshire, commenced by a shooting party at Marston House, near Frome, on Wednesday. On Thursday there was a lawn meet at Marston House of the Royal Buckhounds, which were brought from Ascot the previous day by train. There was a very large meet, the Blackmore Vale sending a large contingent, and every hunt in that part of the county being also represented. Among those present were Lord Cork, Viscount Dungarvan, the Marquis of Worcester, Lord Capel, Lord Hylton, Viscount Sommerton, Viscount Castlerosse, Major Paget, M.P., and Mr. Walter Long, M.P. After a breakfast served in the dining-room, a move was made towards Sharpshaw's farm, where the stag was to be uncarted, and here there could not have been less than 6,000 people assembled, many of the establishments in Frome having closed to give those employed an opportunity of seeing the meet, the first held by the Royal Buckhounds in the neighbourhood for nearly 40 years. The stag, which was uncarted punctually at 12.15, went off at once straight towards Frome, going past the union and into the town. The hounds ran over the scent, and the stag made for where he had been started, and thence to Nunney Catch to Holwell, this latter course giving an exceedingly pretty run over a fine hunting country. It again turned completely round, and in doing this it ran right into the hounds, which had to be whipped off. The animal made straight for Frome over Buttshill, and close by Mr. Cusner's residence, into which it would have bolted had the door been open. It was taken at a quarter to two with scarcely a scratch on it.

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THE WORKING OF THE NEW RULES.

The *Times* observes that though a member who proposes the adjournment of the House may have few thoroughgoing sympathisers on the issue, he appeals to a great variety of human motives. Everybody with a grudge against the Government, or with a general sympathy for those who vindicate the rights of the so-called private member, or with a distaste for the serious business of the evening, or with that simple love of mischief which is not extinct in children of the largest growth, will be disposed upon occasion to favour the motion for the adjournment of the House. The mover will open the door of the Cave of Adullam, and its charms are perennial. The more vigorously heroic remedies for delay are applied, the greater will be the number of his recruits. It is not too much to say that each application of the clôture will be followed by a crop of motions for adjournment supported by the irritated victims, and occupying in all probability a great deal more time than the original debate would have consumed under the old system. To expel Nature with a fork has always had charms for imperious minds, but her modes of re-entry are innumerable. The discussion of the new rules is not yet finished, yet a suspicion has already found lodgment in minds very unwilling to entertain it, that the less some of them are used the better will business proceed.

The *Standard* remarks that a fortnight ago a member who attempted to bring on a debate under cover of a fictitious motion for adjournment felt that he was straining privilege to the verge of licence, that only the exceptional indulgence of the House covered his breach of order. Now, all the conditions are changed. The restrictions placed on the motions have, in fact, legalized them. Every one is anxious to make the most of the liberty that is left. On Thursday Mr. Parnell, and on Friday night Mr. Yorke, found opportunities under the rule for initiating serious and lengthened debates, which, had there been no rule, the suggestions—the remonstrances perhaps — of the Speaker would have abridged or prevented altogether. The example is contagious, and those who follow it may not be as discreet as those who have been the first to set it. Since the Arrears Act and Kilmainham have had their day, Sir Wilfrid Lawson will not be denied. He announced on Friday night that, if he can only get forty members to support him, he will bring forward his vote of censure on the Government at question-time; and there can be little doubt that the practice will become common, unless the constant use of the clôture is resorted to.

The *Daily News* does not believe those who say that the new rules have broken down in the very act of coming into existence. At present there is a disposition—not very dignified or respectable, but not unnatural—to wing the shafts of the Opposition with feathers from the eagle against whom they are aimed rather than with the grey-goose plume which the resources of the Opposition can more easily furnish. There is an inclination to take a little jocose revenge on the author of the new rules of procedure. This propensity will not last. Of course the new rules will be abused, and even when they are not abused they may be used indiscreetly. If they were not liable to this danger they would not be parliamentary rules. But the limits of abuse and indiscretion are less wide than those which prevailed under the old system.

SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOTE.

The *Saturday Review* remarks that the temporary absence from Parliament of the leader of the Opposition will probably at this period of the Session cause little inconvenience, though its cause will be universally regretted. Any unexpected occurrence in which his aid and counsel might be especially needed would opportunely remind his friends and followers of the value of services which have perhaps not always been adequately appreciated. Sir Stafford Northcote may not be so formidable in combat as his principal opponent, or as many of his predecessors; but he makes few mistakes, he commands the respect of both parties, and he has never made a personal enemy. A few would-be mutineers in the Conservative ranks can only excuse their disaffection on the ground that their leader is wanting in pugnacity. It is quite certain that Sir Stafford Northcote will never astonish friends by any sudden display of eccentricity. Mr. Gladstone has so far exhausted the power of surprise that his pursuance for a considerable time of any definite course would be regarded as a paradoxical inconsistency with his well-known character. Harsh critics assert that he has no fixed or fundamental principles. It is more courteous to assume that the law which determines his political orbit has not yet been ascertained by observers. If Sir Stafford Northcote cannot meet the Prime Minister in debate on equal terms, he is a match for any one of his lieutenants. The Conservative Party can scarcely hope at once to supply the place of the leader who was for many years Mr. Gladstone's most formidable competitor. It must be confessed that the other chiefs of the Conservative Party in the House of Commons are in respectability, in good sense, and in want of oratorical power, ill-qualified to supply the defects which are by impatient partisans attributed to their leader. It is questionable whether the party would have been better satisfied with a pugnacious champion than with its present leader. There is no doubt that in present circumstances it can scarcely do better than in loyally following Sir Stafford Northcote. The majority which the Government obtained at the last election has not yet been seriously impaired, though it is probable that more than half of the House of Commons privately agrees in opinion with Sir Stafford Northcote more nearly than with Mr. Gladstone. Some impatient Conservatives lately persuaded themselves that it would be expedient to force the Government, by certain methods of obstruction, to resort to a dissolution. It is highly improbable that, if they had succeeded in their object, the party would have profited by the experiment. It is, of course, impossible that every officer and soldier in an army should approve of the plan of the campaign. In political contests also it is necessary that the leaders should regulate the operations of the party. It is not even pretended that Sir Stafford Northcote has forfeited the confidence of the Opposition, though he may be criticised by a few dissentiments.

ILLNESS OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH.

The Duke of Edinburgh was seized with an attack of illness on Thursday night, at Eastwell Park. His Royal Highness arrived at Ashford, from London, by the 6.7 train on Thursday evening, and on getting to Eastwell complained of being unwell, and immediately went to bed. During the evening he became so much worse that Dr. Wilks, his local medical attendant, was summoned from Ashford, and that gentleman found him labouring under a cold of the severest description, attended with very high fever. So serious was the Duke's condition that Dr. Wilks remained up with him all night, and the Duchess of Edinburgh never left the room. Soon after seven o'clock on Friday morning the acute symptoms had somewhat abated, and Dr. Wilks was able to leave the Duke for a short time, but he paid repeated visits to him during the day. In the evening his Royal Highness was so much better that he was able to sit out of bed for a short time; but it was thought that he would be still much too unwell to see Lord and Lady Wolseley, who were to arrive on a visit about seven o'clock.

A message from Ashford on Saturday morning stated that his Royal Highness had somewhat improved. The Duke is suffering from a severe chill, accompanied by high fever, consequent, it is supposed, upon exposure on board the *Lively*. A later message says that the Duke of Edinburgh is much better.

INVESTITURE BY THE QUEEN.

The ceremonials in connection with the return of the troops from Egypt culminated on Friday afternoon in the investiture by the Queen of the Orders of the Bath, the Star of India, St. Michael and St. George, and the Indian Empire, on those officers of the army and navy whose names were published in the *Gazette* of Friday last. Most of the officers left town by a special train from Paddington at ten minutes past one, which arrived at Windsor a few minutes before two o'clock. Here a small knot of spectators were gathered, attracted by seeing some dozen Royal carriages on their way from the mews to the railway station, but in the town itself there was very little interest displayed beyond a thin fringe of people lining either side of Castle-hill. Amongst the brilliant group of officers who arrived were General Sir John Adye, General Sir E. H. Hamley, General Willis, and General Drury-Lowe, Brigadier General Goodenough, General Sir Henry Daly, Field Marshal Lord Strathnairn (Gold Stick), Admiral Dowell, Admiral Hoskins, Major-General Macpherson, Colonel the Hon. Paul Methuen, Colonel Clive (Officer of Brigade of Guards in waiting), Colonel Tewson, R.M.L.I., Colonel Borrodale, R.A., Colonel Nairn, R.A., Colonel Stevenson, Captain Rawson, R.N., Captain D'Arcy Irvine, Colonel Pennington, and one Indian officer, Colonel Webber, Brigadier General Wilkinson, Colonel Redvers Buller, V.C., Colonel Macnaughten, Colonel Sir J. M. C. M'Neill, and Sir Oriel Turner. By the same train also came Sir Albert Woods, Garter Principal King of Arms, the Earl of Kenmore, Lord Chamberlain, and Mr. Ponsonby Fane. Most of the party were driven up to the Castle, entering by the door of the Great Hall, in the Quadrangle. In accordance with etiquette upon such occasions none of the officers wore any decorations. The officers and men of the Indian Contingent, in charge of Captain Macbay, reached Windsor from Wimbledon about the same time, and drove to the Castle in private omnibuses. At half-past two a guard of honour of the Coldstream Guards marched into the Quadrangle, headed by their band, and took up position facing the north. Precisely at three o'clock a Royal salute and the sounds of the National Anthem announced that her Majesty the Queen had entered the grand Reception Room in which the ceremony was to take place. Her Majesty was accompanied by Princess Christian, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and Princess Beatrice; and attended by Lord Strathnairn, Colonel Duncombe, General Du Plat, the Marchioness of Waterford, the Duchess of Bedford, the Marchioness of Ely, the Honourable Miss Titt, the Honourable Miss Lambert, Captain Bigge, Major-General Sir J. Cowell, the Lord Chamberlain, Sir Henry Ponsonby, and the other members of the Court. On reaching the Reception Room the ceremony was at once commenced. First to be introduced by the Lord Chamberlain to the presence of the Sovereign was Sir J. Adye, who was invested by the Queen with the Riband and Badge of the Military Division of the First Class of the Bath, her Majesty placing the Riband over the right shoulder obliquely to the left, at the same time handing him the Star of his dignity in the Order. Next the Queen knighted and invested with the Second Class (or K.C.B.) Admiral Dowell, General Willis, and Sir E. Hamley, Admiral Hoskins, Major-Gen. Drury-Lowe, Colonels Nugent Tanner, and Sir J. C. M'Neill. Major General Macpherson was then introduced, and was invested by the Queen with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Star of India, similar rank in the order of St. Michael and St. George being next conferred on Colonel Redvers Buller, V.C. The 35 officers selected to receive the honour of the Companionship of the Bath were next introduced, headed by Captain D'Arcy Irvine and the Duke of Connaught, and the Queen affixed to their left breast the decoration of the Military Division of the Third Class. The ceremony was brought to a close by the decoration of three officers with the badge of the Companionship of St. Michael and St. George, and two of the Indian officers with the badge of the Indian Empire.

During the ceremony, which lasted half an hour, the non-commissioned officers and men of the Indian Contingent acted as a special guard of honour to the Queen. As her Majesty left the reception room at about half-past three, the band again played the National Anthem, and the guard of honour saluted. The majority of the newly-decorated officers returned at once to London, but several remained at the Castle as the guests of her Majesty.

THE IRISH PRESS ON THURSDAY NIGHT'S DEBATE.—The *Freeman's Journal* says:—"For once all the Irish representatives were unanimous, and Mr. Parnell showed not more inexorably than Mr. Gibson that the Arrears Act is a failure. The reception given to Mr. Parnell was cheering to Ireland and the minorities, and ominous to the Government. The standing up of every member below the gangway was vindication of liberty of speech, ventilation of grievances, and free Parliamentary discussion." The *Freeman* warns the Government to look to the thousands of people on the verge of famine in Ireland. The *Irish Times* says:—"Mr. Forster's speech contained a warning that cannot be treated lightly. The tenants must abandon vain reliance on any future interposition in their favour in way of supplement to the Arrears Act. The results of this final declaration are sure to appear in the numbers of applications sent in before the 30th inst." The *Dublin Express* is of opinion there is no justification for the debate, and serious harm has been done to the country. Such an outcry of impending famine as the Irish party delight in raising, constitutes a very serious peril to the country in general, and especially to the peasantry in the remote districts.

PARLIAMENTARY SUMMARY.

In the House of Commons on Friday Sir C. Dilke, replying to a question from Sir R. Cross, said it would be a gross dereliction of duty for the Government to commit itself to a resolution with respect to the Cuban refugees until it had in its hands the report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the matter. Sir R. Cross gave notice that he would put the question again in the middle of next week, when the report will have reached the Government. To Mr. Errington Sir C. Dilke said there was no foundation for the statement that a Conference on the Egyptian question had been proposed. Mr. Blake asked Mr. Courtney whether he would receive a deputation of members representing Irish maritime counties, for the purpose of hearing representations respecting the desirability of renewing the advances in aid of local efforts towards the construction of fishery harbours. Mr. Courtney answered somewhat sharply that if there was anything hon. members wanted to say that they could not put in writing he would hear them. This answer and its manner of conveyance excited the indignation of the Irish members, and Mr. Blake appealed to the Prime Minister, who attempted to soften the answer given by the Secretary to the Treasury. Eventually Mr. Blake, amid loud cheers and laughter, gave notice that he would repeat the same question on Monday and every other day till he got an answer. In reply to Colonel Stanley, the Premier said he hoped on Monday to be able to make a short statement estimating the probable cost of the recent operations in Egypt. There was no intention of moving for a vote of credit during the present session. The Premier declined to give Sir Wilfrid Lawson a day for the discussion of his vote of censure on the war. Sir W. Lawson informed the House that "if he could get forty members he would go on with it." The questions disposed of, Mr. Yorke asked leave to move the adjournment of the House in order to discuss a question of urgent public importance. In answer to the Speaker, he said the question was the conduct of her Majesty's Government in connection with the release of the Irish prisoners from Kilmainham. Mr. Dillwyn, rising on a point of order, asked whether it was competent to raise the question, seeing that there was already on the paper a motion covering it. The Speaker said he understood Mr. Yorke was about to challenge the conduct of the Government, not to discuss the resolution on the paper. Mr. Yorke assenting to this construction of his intention, and leave being refused, the Speaker asked if he was supported by forty members. Thereupon, with two exceptions, the whole of the members sitting on the Conservative side rose to their feet. The exceptions were Sir R. Cross and Colonel Stanley. Mr. Yorke then proceeded, amid successive interruptions on points of order raised by Mr. Dillwyn, Sir George Campbell, Sir Patrick O'Brien, Dr. Cameron, and Mr. Rogers, to recite the familiar circumstances attendant upon the release of Mr. Parnell and his colleagues, and upon the incident of more recent date, when the Premier had challenged Mr. Yorke to move for an inquiry. Lord R. Churchill, in the course of one of the interruptions, raised the question whether it was right to put down bogus resolutions with the purpose of preventing others from bringing on bona fide motions. As this charge was brought personally against Mr. Labouchere, who had placed on the paper the motion alluded to by Mr. Dillwyn, that gentleman rose and, amid much laughter, asked whether he might move that Lord R. Churchill's words be taken down. The Speaker said Lord R. Churchill had made use of a phrase which was scarcely Parliamentary in describing resolutions as "bogus." It was in accordance with an old-established rule of the House that no member might discuss a question relating to which a motion already stood on the paper. When Mr. Yorke had reached the end of his quotations and remarks—of which last Mr. Gladstone observed it was easier to understand the declamatory than the argumentative portion—the Premier rose, and was received with loud cheers from the Liberal benches. The right hon. gentleman proceeded at considerable length to "look through the bushel of chaff presented by Mr. Yorke to find a grain of corn." As a result, he was obliged to go back to the declaration made by him some months ago, that nothing had passed between Mr. Parnell and the Government in the nature of a bargain. Nothing was asked or demanded by Mr. Parnell either with respect to himself or with reference to works of legislation to be undertaken by the Government. "There was no negotiation, promise, or engagement whatsoever," the Premier emphatically declared. Mr. Forster explained that he would not have made any allusion to the letter written by Mr. Parnell if it had been read in its entirety to the House, nor would he have made reference to the memorandum of his conversation with Mr. O'Shea if he had not believed that that gentleman was quoting it inaccurately. Mr. Lowther, rising to continue the conversation, the House rapidly emptied, and, amid evident signs of exhausted interest, Mr. Chaplin and Lord Randolph Churchill endeavoured to prolong the incident. At length, after appropriating two hours of the sitting, the motion for the adjournment was negatived. The House then went on to consider the Procedure rules. Rule eleven, which provides that, on reading the order of the day for the consideration of a bill as amended, the House shall proceed to consider the same without question put, unless the member in charge shall desire to postpone its consideration, or if notice has been given to recommit the bill, was, after brief discussion, agreed to with slight amendment. On Rule twelve, which gives the Government increased facilities for dealing with Supply, a prolonged discussion arose, in the course of which the Premier agreed to confine the operation of the rule to Mondays and Thursdays. The rule as amended was agreed to, and the House adjourned.

The *Standard* regards the discussion on Mr. Yorke's motion as an interesting one. The parallelism of circumstances may have been a coincidence. But most people will call the whole thing an arrangement and an understanding. Its character, in the eyes of responsible persons, may be inferred from the fact that Mr. Forster resigned rather than sanction it; that he regrets now having had hand or part in it; and that he still thinks that what was done was done unwisely.

The *Times* has been influenced by the debate in the direction of applying a yet stronger condemnation of any discussion upon whatever happened or is supposed to have happened at Kilmainham. The various quibbles and contradictions that develop themselves when both parties have lost something of their coolness and self-control are of little interest and less importance outside the walls of the House. The member who most steadily bears this in mind will best serve his reputation with the country.

The *Morning Post* considers that Mr. Yorke did good service in reminding the House of Commons of the anomalous combination by which her Majesty's Government made their latest experiment in governing Ireland. There is no doubt that those who benefited by the change of Government policy in regard to Ireland left their cells in a very different spirit from that in which they entered them, and that those who were primarily responsible for the Government of Ireland so completely disapproved of this change of front that they resigned their offices and decided not to follow on the new lines.

The *Irish Times* expresses the opinion that every reference to this matter adds emphasis to the discredit of the transaction. It is surprising that the Conservative members should have last night missed the point, in having omitted to ask not whether there was a negotiation, but what sort of negotiation. It was perfectly novel in English or Irish history for a leader of a political party to hold out to the responsible Minister that if certain things were done they would be able to stop outrage and intimidation—that is, undertake to do the business which the executive Government had failed to do.

The *Freeman's Journal* asserts that the story was hatched by the Tories, aided by the most unsuccessful politician of his time. It can never be forgotten that Mr. Forster was one of the first to raise the cry about the Treaty of Kilmainham, and, for the purpose of embarrassing his colleagues, to divulge in a shameless manner the secrets of the Cabinet. In Ireland enemies of the popular cause were delighted with the business, in the hope that it would injure and discredit Mr. Parnell. They were mistaken. It will take something more than Tory falsehoods and the spiteful fabrications of a disappointed politician to shake their confidence in one who has so well deserved the trust placed in him by his fellow-countrymen.

FASHIONABLE NEWS.

The Queen has appointed the Hon. Mrs. Gerald Wellesley to be an Extra Woman of the Bedchamber to her Majesty.

The Prince of Wales has had some good sporting during the latter part of last week in the preserves of Lord Walsingham, in Norfolk. The Princess of Wales and Lady Walsingham joined the shooting party at luncheon on Friday.

Lord and Lady Granville arrived at Windsor Castle on Friday evening on a visit to the Queen.

The Queen on Friday received the representatives of the Indian Contingent now in England at Windsor Castle.

Lord and Lady Wolseley arrived at Ashford, Kent, on Friday evening, on a visit to the Duke of Edinburgh, at Eastwell Park. An enthusiastic welcome was given by the townsfolk at the station, which was profusely decorated, and a torchlight procession formed by the fire brigade escorted the visitors through the town, which was brilliantly illuminated.

Sir Stafford Northcote and Mr. W. H. Smith, with several members of their families, left town on Friday to join Mr. Smith's yacht the *Pandora*, at Portsmouth.

The Marquis and Marchioness Conyngham have left Thomas's Hotel.

A marriage, says the *Post*, will shortly take place between the Rev. Henry Montagu Villiers, eldest son of the late Hon. and Rev. Henry M. Villiers, Bishop of Durham, and Miss Cadogan, eldest daughter of the Hon. Frederick Cadogan.

Lord Berwick died on Friday at the family seat, Attingham, Shropshire. He was born in 1802, and succeeded his brother as fifth baron in 1861. The heir to the title and estate is his nephew, Richard Henry Noel Hill, who was born May 13, 1847.

The deaths are also announced of Lady Laura Meyrick, sister of the Duke of Cleveland, aged eighty-two; Sir William Henry Walton, formerly Queen's Remembrancer and Senior Master of the Court of Exchequer, aged eighty-three; and Colonel Sir Edward FitzGerald Campbell, late of the 60th Rifles, who served with distinction in the Punjaub campaign of 1848-9, and was for some time Assistant-Inspector of Volunteers.

THE PRIMATE.

The extreme gravity of the condition of the Archbishop of Canterbury continues. The medical report on Friday stated that there was no improvement. The Dean of Canterbury, speaking on Friday night at a meeting in that city, said he was deeply grieved to say that the melancholy change that had taken place in the condition of the Archbishop had dispelled what little hope they had entertained of his recovery. Dr. Carpenter issued the following bulletin at eight o'clock on Saturday morning:—"The feverishness has this morning decidedly decreased, but the general weakness continues."

THE HEALTH OF THE ARMY IN EGYPT.

The *Times* remarks that as there is some anxiety with regard to the condition of the health of the Army of Occupation in Egypt, it will be interesting to state what is known of the matter. The strength of the Army is between 11,000 and 12,000 men of all arms, of which about 9,000 are at Cairo and its environs, and 2,500 are at Alexandria and at Ramleh. Those at Cairo are for the most part under canvas, but the Cameron Highlanders have been moved into the Citadel, the King's Royal Rifles into the Abdin Barracks, and some other troops are quartered in the Kasr-el-Nil. The Royal Horse Artillery, the Royal Artillery, the 7th Dragoon Guards, the 19th Hussars, the 1st Shropshire, the 1st Staffordshire, the 1st Berkshire, and the 1st Sussex are quartered at Abbasieh, about four miles from Cairo, and there are three regiments of the Highland Brigade also under canvas on the left bank of the Nile, nearly two miles from Cairo. Some of these, however, have now been removed into barracks. The troops at Alexandria are 5-1 Royal Artillery, some Royal Engineers, the 2d Royal Irish, the 2d Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, the 1st West Kent, some Commissariat, the Army Service, and Army Hospital Corps. A portion of these troops occupy the buildings adjoining the Ras-el-Tin Palace, and some are under canvas. The barracks both at Cairo and Alexandria are undergoing a thorough painting and cleansing, they are mostly lofty buildings, but, as is well known, they were in a condition of horrible filth and dirt when first entered by our men. The sanitary arrangements in these buildings have been improved as much as possible, and the "dry earth system" has been resorted to and applied in the manner practised in India. The diet of the men has also received attention. The hospital accommodation at Cairo was at first, owing to the condition in which the public buildings were found to be, hardly sufficient, but the cleansing progress having been completed, it is now, it is believed, ample for all probable contingencies. In the citadel there is room for some 280 beds. At Abbasieh there is a second hospital of 300 beds, and at Ghezireh there is a third, but this is a tent hospital, and it is capable of holding a varied number. At Alexandria the principal hospital is a building consisting of four large beds, facing the sea, which will hold 300 beds, and it is contemplated to supplement it by the equipment of a hulk hospital capable of holding 200 patients. The disease to which the troops have been most subject are enteric fever, dysentery, diarrhœa, and opthalmia. Of these, enteric fever has proved far the most serious, and during the month of October 126 patients were admitted suffering from this disease, and of these 52 died. It is feared that no improvement can be expected in the health of the troops until they are all well housed in barracks, and everything is being done to hasten the cleansing and painting of the buildings intended for this purpose. In the meanwhile, at the suggestion of Sir Archibald Alison, steamers have been hired, and they will take the invalids for trips up the Nile to the First Cataract. Some will be sent for some days out to sea, while others will be removed for change to the hospitals at Malta. The arrangements for the expeditions up the Nile have been placed in the hands of Messrs. Cook and Sons, who have obtained the use of three steamers from the Khedive's Government. Messrs. Cook will supply all the food, but, as they do not look upon the operation as one of business, they have engaged to refund to the Government any profits which may accrue from the understanding.

THE MAJORITY OF LORD DUNGARVAN.—The festivities consequent on the coming of age of Lord Dungarvan, eldest son of the Earl of Cork, the Master of the Royal Buckhounds, and Lord Lieutenant of Somersetshire, commenced by a shooting party at Marston House, near Frome, on Wednesday. On Thursday there was a lawn meet at Marston House of the Royal Buckhounds, which were brought from Ascot the previous day by train. There was a very large meet, the Blackmore Vale sending a large contingent, and every hunt in that part of the county being also represented. Among those present were Lord Cork, Viscount Dungarvan, the Marquis of Worcester, Lord Capel, Lord Hylton, Viscount Sommerton, Viscount Castlerosse, Major Paget, M.P., and Mr. Walter Long, M.P. After a breakfast served in the dining-room, a move was made towards Sharpshaw's farm, where the stag was to be uncarted, and here there could not have been less than 6,000 people assembled, many of the establishments in Frome having closed to give those employed an opportunity of seeing the meet, the first held by the Royal Buckhounds in the neighbourhood for nearly 40 years. The stag, which was uncarted punctually at 12.15, went off at once straight towards Frome, going past the union and into the town. The hounds ran over the scent, and the stag made for where he had been started, and thence to Nunney Catch to Holwell, this latter course giving an exceedingly pretty run over a fine hunting country. It again turned completely round, and in doing this it ran right into the hounds, which had to be whipped off. The animal made straight for Frome over Buttshill, and close by Mr. Cusner's residence, into which it would have bolted had the door been open. It was taken at a quarter to two with scarcely a scratch on it.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS.—The following is taken from the mail summary of the *Melbourne Argus*, dated October 11:—The Railways Construction Bill is still under consideration in the Victoria Legislative Assembly. For the 838 miles of lines authorised by the Bill £2,568,683 is available from the £4,000,000 loan and other sources. A motion in favour of local option has been carried in the Legislative Assembly. Great satisfaction is felt at the success of the colonial wines at the Bordeaux Exhibition. The revenue of Victoria for the quarter ending the 30th of September was £1,332,640, and for the year £5,621,675, being a net increase of £32,919 for the quarter and of £317,039 for the year. Councillor Dodgshun has been elected Mayor of Melbourne for the ensuing municipal year. Mr. William Hill, manager of the Reedy Creek branch of the Colonial Bank of Australasia, has been arrested on a charge of robbing the bank. The labour market is unchanged. The supply of good hands in all trades is scarcely equal to the demand. The new wool clip is arriving in Melbourne in considerable quantities, but not so freely as was the case this time last year. At Adelaide the opening sale of the season took place on the 3rd inst. The prices realised were below those of last season. Business is still inactive, but a confident tone prevails. The reports from the goldfields continue to be of a favourable character. At Stawell a fine reef has been struck. The majority of the crops are looking well, but the rainfall has been so intermittent that in many districts their state is somewhat critical. Over the northern border dry hot weather has set in earlier than usual, and the prospect is gloomy. The revenue of New South Wales for the quarter ending the 30th of September shows an increase of £44,456. The increase for the year amounts to £878,258. In the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales a motion has been carried in favour of opening the art galleries on Sundays. A Bill has been introduced into the South Australian Assembly authorising the construction of a railway from Nairne to the Victorian border. The length of the line is 160 miles, and the estimated cost £928,000. The council of the University of South Australia have agreed upon a scheme for the establishment of a faculty of law. It is proposed to appoint law lecturers, and eventually a professor.

MR. GRAY'S PRIVILEGE COMMITTEE.—The report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into Mr. Gray's imprisonment is issued. Its tenour is already known. Its minutes of evidence contain a long statement made by Mr. Gray defending his course of action. In this he says that believing Mr. O'Brien's letter respecting the Hynes jury to be a *bonâ fide* statement of facts, and that the disclosures contained in it ought to be brought before the public, the proprietors of the *Freeman*, in discharge of their duty as public journalists, published the letter, taking what they considered to be their proper risk; that is, if any of the jury considered themselves aggrieved they could have proceeded against the proprietors either by civil action or criminal indictment. Mr. Gray considered, further, that it was not his duty to suppress publications in the *Freeman* because he happened to be high sheriff.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—The *Daily News* says:—We understand that the Senate of the University of London have lately come to an important decision which will do much towards removing a grievance, long felt in relation to the government and practical working of the university. One of the chief causes of the agitation which resulted in the establishment at Manchester of the Victoria University was, that while students of the affiliated colleges were greatly affected in their studies by the London University regulations, the colleges had no influence on the governing body, which prescribed regulations or cancelled them in a purely autocratic manner. The Convocation of the London University recently urged on the Senate the desirableness of a change in this respect, and proposed the establishment of Boards of Studies in Arts, Laws, Medicine, and Science, the members of these boards to be in part chosen from the professors and teachers in the colleges and schools. The Senate has assented to this proposal in principle, though not in form. The principal teaching bodies which send candidates to the university examinations are to be authorised to nominate representatives who shall attend in conference, or otherwise, to deliberate on such questions relating to the examinations as may be brought before them by the Senate. This change, it is believed, will bring about fuller harmony between the examining and teaching bodies, and tend to prevent in future collision and secession. In addition to this important reform, the Senate propose that the university examiners shall meet from time to time to consider suggestions for the improvement of the examinations. It is likely that thus coherence and continuity in the practical working of the university system will be preserved, and occasion removed for such taunts as that the metropolitan university is a nebula floating about in space, with an examining board for its head, but otherwise without internal congruity and consolidation.

SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS.—The following is the form of the new Rule regulating the suspension of members:—Resolved—That whenever any member shall have been named by the Speaker, or by the Chairman of a Committee of the whole House, immediately after the commission of the offence of disregarding the authority of the Chair, or of abusing the rules of the House by persistently and wilfully obstructing the business of the House, or otherwise, then, if the offence has been committed by such member in the House, the Speaker shall forthwith put the question, on a motion being made, no amendment, adjournment, or debate being allowed, 'That such member be suspended from the service of the House;' and if the offence has been committed in a Committee of the whole House; the Chairman shall, on a motion being made, put the same question in a similar way, and if the motion is carried shall forthwith suspend the proceedings of the Committee and report the circumstances to the House; and the Speaker shall thereupon put the same question, without amendment, adjournment or debate, as if the offence had been committed in the House itself. If any member be suspended under this order, his suspension on the first occasion shall continue for one week, on the second occasion for a fortnight, and on the third or any subsequent occasion for a month; provided always that suspension from the service of the House shall not exempt the member so suspended from serving on any Committee for the consideration of a private Bill to which he may have been appointed before his suspension; provided also that not more than one member shall be named at the same time, unless several members present together have jointly disregarded the authority of the Chair; provided always that nothing in this resolution shall be taken to deprive the House of the power of proceeding against any member according to ancient usages."

PROSPECTIVE CHANGES AT THE ADMIRALTY.—The Earl of Northbrook will probably assume the duties of Secretary of State for War from the commencement of the new year, when it is to be hoped (says the *Army and Navy Gazette*) that his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh will be called upon to represent the navy in the House of Lords. The difficulty of carrying into effect this arrangement—which we have reason to believe would give satisfaction, not only to the whole service, but to the greater number of her Majesty's Ministers—lies in the clamour on the part of the Radical supporters of the Government to be more fully represented in the Cabinet. For this reason, a rumour has been circulated by a contemporary, with some plausibility, to the effect that Sir Charles Dilke would be nominated to succeed Lord Northbrook. There are many reasons why we should regard this most unpopular step as a disadvantage to the service. In our opinion, the First Lord of the Admiralty is far better placed in the House of Lords than in the House of Commons. It is true that a good deal of unfavourable comment has been passed from time to time upon the fact that the head of one of the great Spending Departments should not have a seat in the Lower House. To us it seems far more appropriate that the navy should be represented in the House of Commons by its Financial Secretary, and that the First Lord of the Admiralty should have his seat in the House of Lords. One of the strongest arguments in favour of this proposition ist hat, before all things, it is desirable that the navy should be removed from the sphere of party passion and party strife. Until this is done we shall never have questions of naval policy temperately debated, with a single eye to the interests of the service and the exigencies of the country. Perhaps the best reform of all at the Admiralty would be the entire abolition of the Board; but for this we must expect to wait. A Secretary of State for the Navy is a creation of the future.

ESCAPE OF MILITARY PRISONERS.—Two soldiers effected their escape from the military guard-room at Raglan Barracks on Thursday morning. Several prisoners, including Privates Martin and Byrne, were in the cells attached to the guard room. Martin was awaiting trial by general court-martial, and Byrne had been tried and was awaiting his sentence. Yesterday morning both prisoners were safe. Two hours later they were gone, and the sergeant of the guard found that they had sawn through two iron bars guarding the window, each an inch thick, had forced the remaining portions of the bar out, got through the aperture, and dropped into a lane, getting clear off. The utmost vigilance was exhibited to secure the recapture, but up to a late hour on Thursday night they remained at large. A court of inquiry into the circumstances has been held, and the position of the sergeant of the guard in relation to the matter has received special attention. No one seems to have heard the men at work cutting the bars, a fact which is accounted for by the statement that the other prisoners were singing loudly for some time. It is believed that a file had been smuggled into the cells.

MEDICAL STUDENTS.—At the Guildhall Police-court on Friday Edward A. W. Peyton, 21, Kidbrooke-park-road, Blackheath, a medical student, was charged on remand with stealing from the cloak-room of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on the 14th inst., a book entitled, "Holden's Anatomy," value 12s., the property of the prosecutor.—Mr. Beard attended for the hospital authorities, and Mr. Humphreys appeared for the prisoner. The adjournment was fixed for as soon after twelve o'clock as it could come on; but a body of medical students assembled before the Court as early as ten o'clock, and were so disorderly that extra constables were put on to keep them from interfering with the business of the Court. They amused themselves with hooting, yelling, and making insulting observations to the Court upon business. When the doors were opened they rushed in in an uproarious manner.—Sir Andrew Lusk said, "Now, gentlemen, I know what you are as a rule; and, if you do not behave yourselves, out you go. You must behave yourselves here, whatever you do elsewhere. Officer, get more constables, and, if there is any disturbance, turn the disturbers out."—Order was maintained afterwards.—Mr. Humphreys asked for a remand, as it was known that the youth had been unsettled in his mind.—Mr. Beard said he was not instructed to oppose the application, and, therefore, he made no objection to it.—Sir Andrew Lusk, after some discussion, remanded the prisoner.

MR. CHILDERS AND THE WAR OFFICE STAFF.—Mr. Childers has addressed a letter to all the officials in the War Office, thanking them for the very able, zealous, and untiring manner in which they had carried on their duties during the war in Egypt. Nothing, he says, could have been more satisfactory in every way, and it is only because it would be invidious, where all have done well, to single out any one for special praise or thanks, and he refrains from naming many who have rendered him most valuable assistance.

THE DUKE OF HAMILTON'S ESTATES.—A Glasgow correspondent writes:—The recent sales of the Hamilton Palace collection have enabled the Duke of Hamilton to assume control of the management of his estates. The receipts at the recent rent audit ran in his grace's name, the words "trustees of" being erased.

ARRIVAL OF FRENCH "ANARCHISTS" IN LONDON.—About ten or a dozen French "Anarchists," as they call themselves, from Lyons and other towns in France, arrived on Friday at the Charing-cross station, where they were met by several of their fellow-countrymen and were taken off to some of the purlieus in the neighbourhood of Soho or Leicester Squares, where foreigners of this class mostly reside.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHS.—The *Army and Navy Gazette* understands that it was the wish of the Duke of Connaught that no favour should be shown to him; and his Royal Highness was perfectly satisfied to receive a simple Companionship of the Bath as the reward of his services in Egypt, as he did not desire in any way to interfere with the honours which had been earned by the other officers who served with him in the campaign.

DISSOLUTION OF THE HOME RULE LEAGUE.—The Home Rule League founded by the late Mr. Isaac Butt in May, 1870, has merged its existence in the Irish National League. At the closing meeting in Dublin on Friday Major D'Arcy, D.L., presided, and was supported by the Lord Mayor, M.P., Messrs. T. D. Sullivan, M.P., Gill, M.P., and Judge Little, while Messrs. Healy, M.P., Redmond, M.P., Alfred Webb, and Harrington attended for the Irish National Land League. A letter was read from Mr. A. M. Sullivan, stating

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Great-Britain.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 26–27. 1882.

LAWLESSNESS IN IRELAND.

The motives of the desperadoes who attacked the detectives on Saturday night were obvious enough. They turned upon the police with the fierce rage of a wild beast pressed by the hunters. It was not, however, the mere instinct of self-preservation that inspired this crime. It was not that a few unfortunate men formerly involved in lawless practices and now anxious to escape from the consequences were being pursued to their last refuge. The "Vigilance Committee," against whom the Irish Government are carrying on an active campaign, are fighting, not for their personal safety, but for their impunity in outrage, for their organization as a power outside and above the law, and for the ends to which that power is to be applied. Whatever may be proved—beyond the indisputable facts of the unprovoked murder of an officer of the law—against the men captured on Saturday night, it is notorious that the city of Dublin is infested by dangerous ruffians who have so long successfully defied the law and participated in the benefits of the anarchy devised for political purposes, that they are not willing to surrender their power without a struggle. A series of atrocious murders which escaped unpunished one by one, until the Prevention of Crimes Act was passed, were popularly attributed to the organisation of this class for political objects. But politics, even of the crudest Nationalist type, may well recoil from contact with common-place criminality. It was lately pointed out from the judicial bench in Ireland that ordinary crime in the city of Dublin has enormously increased within the past two or three years. The fact is that the lawless classes, having tasted power and enjoyed impunity as patriotic enemies of alien law, have not limited their operations to the political field. But it is to the political character of their organisation that they owe the popular sympathy which has hitherto shielded them. Their animosity to the detectives feeds in some respects only a private war, such as their kinsmen in the most dangerous districts of New York wage against the police. It is, however, allied with stronger passions and connected with wider issues. There is no room for complacent optimism when we look at the latest revelation of this phase in the social condition of the first city in Ireland. An organisation of resolute and audacious anarchists, habitually in possession of arms in defiance of the law, is maintained under the very walls of the Castle. The Irish Government is bound to stamp out this terrorism. Lord Spencer's firm administration of the extraordinary powers conferred upon him by the Prevention of Crimes Act, as well as the efficient working of the Special Commissions, hold out a promise of success, but while deeds such as those of Saturday night are done in the streets of Dublin it cannot be said that the work has been accomplished, or that it would be safe to relax the vigilance of the Executive for a moment. The theory that Irish disorders are merely the fruit of an unsatisfactory system of land tenure is practically refuted by the threatening organisation of crime in Dublin and other large towns. The Vigilance Committee, which gives the Dublin detectives so much trouble, does not even pretend, we may be sure, to have any connection with agrarian wrongs or rights. The objects of these daring enemies of the law are vague and crude enough, but, such as they are, we must class them as distinctly political. No doubt, many of the recruits are ordinary criminals, who have not abandoned their regular pursuits because they have enlisted as patriots. No doubt, too, it is from this class that the agents in the most atrocious agrarian crimes have been very often drawn. The connecting links of organisation may be guessed at without much risk of error. But the political aims of the men who are engaged in a death struggle with the police are those of artisans, not of peasants. A colour of Irish Nationalism is thrown over schemes of destruction and anarchy as wild as ever maddened Belleville. The mingled folly and ferocity of the extreme Nationalist journals, blending hatred of England with the Communistic ideas lately imported into Ireland from the Continent and the United States, find eager students among the discontented and dangerous classes. We have not to do with wretched beings like the murderers and the victims at Maamtrasna, but with men working at well-paid trades, reading newspapers, and carrying costly weapons of the newest fashion. It is not amiss to observe that the ratepayers of Dublin, though of course the majority of them would shrink with horror from association with the assailants of the detectives, have declared themselves strongly at the recent municipal elections in favour of extreme Nationalist views. Town Councils and Boards of Guardians throughout the country have in the same way purged themselves of their loyal members. A measure of local self-government, such as was demanded by the Dublin Conference, would throw uncontrolled power almost everywhere into the hands of the avowed enemies of the British connection and the sympathisers with attacks on law and order as strongholds of British influence. —*Times*.

The "Austral."—The following telegram has been received from Sydney:—"*Austral*.—Bodies of engineer and purser have been found. Verdict, inquest: Grave error judgment captain and officers."

DISQUIETUDE IN FRANCE.

We (*Spectator*) do not see why the unrest just now prevailing in Paris should be held to "threaten the Republic." The unrest is sufficiently real, but it proceeds from three causes, all remediable, and all remediable without the proclamation of any Monarchy. The first and probably the most influential, is financial depression:—

The economists are frightened at the prospects of endless expenditure on public works, to be made with borrowed money, and under a hope of speedy returns which M. Léon Say declares to be fallacious. The fear of these borrowings, with some other causes, depresses Rentes, and so appears to deplete all solid fortunes, while it embarrasses all firms accustomed to keep their reserves in Rentes. This cause of depression, which would be felt at any time, is aggravated by the condition of trade, which has been impoverished by bad harvests, and by the long crisis in the speculative market, which involves half the thrifty people in France, and is not over yet, nor will be, till the great speculative firms consent to "make a loss" on a great scale, by parting at low prices with the unsaleable bonds with which they have burdened themselves. They must do it at last, and when they do there will be a crash which will clear the air, and compel the Government to "postpone"—that is, to abandon—M. de Freycinet's gigantic scheme, as one too heavy, even for France. The second cause of the unrest is the absence of an Executive with power to initiate anything, or, to speak plainly, to maintain itself for six months together. M. Duclerc says openly he shall bring forward no Bill of importance, for if he does he shall be defeated; and he is evidently reluctant even to propose considerable financial changes. Every one knows, moreover, that even if he remains passive, he is not safe; that at a signal from M. Gambetta, he would be overthrown; and that without that signal, a Bill proposed by a private member might be carried by a fortuitous concourse of groups, and compel a resignation. There is no successor possible who will be stronger, except M. Gambetta himself, and he will be resisted by all the fractions which dread either a strong Government, or him. This situation is, undoubtedly, a disastrous one, for it deprives the external policy of France of all dignity, and reduces her internal policy to a series of make-shifts. And, finally, the third cause is the irritation, the just irritation, of all who sympathise either with the Catholic Church, or with true religious liberty. They have a serious grievance, or series of grievances; but the undeniable existence of religious persecution is not the question at issue, but rather how far the people of France are wounded by it. But there is one thing that can be said with certainty, that if the electors think their representatives are going too far, they can, and will, make them understand that fact, without loss of time. They are not going to throw over the Republic, which is, in fact, their own *régime*, for want of rough speaking to their mandatories, who, again, on this, as on all other subjects, will trim their sails only too readily to the popular breeze.

FRANCE AND MADAGASCAR.

The Paris correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Sunday night:—

A rupture has taken place between the French Government and the Malagasy Ambassadors, who, considering themselves insulted by having their flag taken down, have left Paris, and will arrive in London tomorrow. For several days past the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here has been using threats and insisting that the Ambassadors must yield if they wished to prevent hostilities. Yesterday evening some one arrived at the Ambassadors' hotel bringing with him a written ultimatum from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This ultimatum stipulated, first, the recognition by the Hova Government of the French Protectorate over the west coast of Madagascar; secondly, the granting of ninety-nine years' leases. The Ambassadors were told that they must sign the document prepared for their signature at once, and that a refusal would entail most serious consequences for their country. They, however, refused. At ten this morning M. Revoil, a French traveller, who has never left them since they quitted Madagascar, and whose position has till now been a mystery, told the Ambassadors that the French Government gave them till six o'clock this evening to sign the Convention already drawn up by the French, and in the Ambassadors' hands. Before the appointed hour the Ambassadors had prepared a written reply, in which they consented, in the name of their Queen, to allow the granting of renewable leases for thirty-five years, but they adhered firmly to what they had said from the outset, that it was absolutely out of the question for them to recognise the rights of France to a Protectorate. This reply was carried to the Ministry by the Ambassadors' Secretaries and M. Revoil. The Secretaries returned saying that it had been flung aside as insufficient, and that nothing but complete surrender to the French demands would be accepted. A little later on M. Revoil also returned, but he was accompanied by several gentlemen—it is supposed Secretaries from the Ministry. They insisted that the French ultimatum must be accepted unconditionally and immediately, or French cannon would soon teach them what it is to trifle with France. The Ambassadors, however, replied that they could not and would not recognise a right which had never existed. Then followed a scene the responsibility of which must rest with M. Revoil or with the French Foreign Office, if he was really acting, as he appeared to be, with their authority. He called the people of the hotel, saying that since the Ambassadors would not yield their flag must come down. The window was flung open and the flag was taken in in spite of the protests of the Ambassadors. The Ambassadors, considering themselves grossly insulted, then left the hotel with nothing but their money. They are now out of Paris and will arrive in London to-morrow, where they will be joined by their Secretaries in a few days. M. Revoil told them before they left, that a telegram would be sent off to-night to the French Naval Commander at Zanzibar to commence operations without further delay.

I have since seen M. Revoil, who says he acted *officieusement*, but did not take down the flag with his own hands, but ordered it to be done.

Another Canal Scheme.—The *Madras Mail*, in chronicling the fact that Mr. Grindrod, of the firm of Grindrod, Jenkins, and Co., of Colombo, has arrived at Madras with the object of seeing Mr. Grant Duff on the subject of cutting a canal through the Island of Ramisaram, says:—"Mr. Grindrod is acting as the representative of capitalists at home, who are prepared to subscribe the necessary capital for the work without any guarantee from the Indian Government. All they ask is a concession to carry out the work. It is estimated that the canal would save steamers from three to four days in the voyage from London to Madras and Calcutta and *vice versâ*, and of course this means a saving in coal and other working expenses of steamers. The channel would be about 2¼ miles long, and the Hon. John Stoddard, Acting Surveyor-General of Ceylon, believes that the work could be completed in 3¼ years, but with energy it might probably be finished in less time." The island of Ramisaram blocks the narrowest part of the channel between the mainland of the Madras Presidency and the island of Ceylon.

THE ASSASSINATION OF A DUBLIN DETECTIVE.

The Dublin correspondent of the *Times*, writing on Sunday respecting the murder of the detective, Cox, says:—Another great crime was committed last night in the most central and populous district of this city, close to its most principal thoroughfare. A constable of police, while engaged in the discharge of his duty, was shot dead, and another man was so seriously wounded that his life is in danger. This murder was no ordinary assassination; it was, in fact, an incident in a struggle between the forces of lawful authority and of revolution. It was only recently resolved to carry out a new policy in dealing with the secret societies. Mr. Jenkinson, the Under-Secretary, having charge of the department of crime, directed that the leaders and most reckless members of the vigilance committee which is organised for assassination should be followed, and their movements closely watched. In pursuance of this new order, six detectives, named Eastwood, Cox, Stratford, Haughton, Williams, and Beattie were on duty last night, at short distances, in the vicinity of Gilligan's public-house, Mid Abbey-street, near the corner of Sackville-street, keeping a watch upon some unknown men who were inside. Some of the detectives were experienced hands, others were being trained for this special duty. Before 11 o'clock one of the men, named Woodward, came out and, shaking hands with a detective whom he knew, asked him why he was pointing them out to the new men. He would, he added, give his photograph to them if they liked to have it. The constable replied that he was only doing his duty. Woodward then went away down Sackville-street and was followed by another man, named Poole, a notorious ringleader of the secret gang. The police seeing them return formed into two bodies of three each. About 11 o'clock some of the party whom they had under surveillance came out of the public-house, and the constables having heard a low whistle, which they well understood to be a signal, Eastwood, Cox, and Haughton crossed over to the other side of the street. One of the men had a revolver in his hand, and Cox was directed to arrest him. Cox turned a little round to get his own revolver out of his pocket, but before he could do so he was shot in the back of the head by the ruffian, a gasfitter, named Dowling, who lives in Upper Kevin-street. Constable Eastwood at the same instant fired at Dowling, who fell along with Cox. The two struggled together on the ground, but it was only the death agony of poor Cox, who soon afterwards was found to be dead. Eastwood fired again at Dowling, but was then seized by another of the gang, a painter named Devine, and was so firmly pinioned from behind that he could not use the revolver any more. At the same time he was struck in the arm by another of the party, and the weapon fell from his hand. At this critical moment a sergeant of the King's Rifles, whose name is Dunvers, was observed at the other side of the street, and the police called him to their assistance. He complied with an alacrity worthy of a brave soldier. Drawing his sword, he held it to the throat of Devine, who had two revolvers in his hand, and told him he would "run it smooth through him" if he did not release his grasp of the constable, or if he attempted to stir. In the meantime some of the police were struggling to get the revolver from Dowling, who was on the ground, and the rest of the party dispersed, and ran away. A car having been procured, Cox, with the help of a number of persons who were attracted to the spot by the firearm reports, was placed on a car and taken to Jervis-street Hospital. The bullet had entered the nape of the neck, a little to the left. Dowling was also taken to the hospital. Before the car started, Poole came up, with revolver in hand, with the evident intention of rescuing Dowling. He held the door open for a time, but, on a constable threatening to shoot him, went away. At the hospital it was found that Dowling had two bullets in him; one had entered above his right breast, close to the shoulder-blade, and the other had smashed his left wrist. He had also two incised wounds about the head, probably caused during the struggle on the ground. He is about 30 years of age, and is not known to the police. The scene in the deadhouse was a very sad one. Cox, a fine athletic young man of apparently 30 years of age, who had only been four years in the force, lay stretched stark and ghastly on the table. His face wore a peculiarly rigid but calm expression. There was very little blood from the wound. He was a nephew of Inspector Cox, of the Rathmines district, one of the most active officers in the service. The man Devine, who seized constable Eastwood, was conveyed to Store-street Police Station in custody. He manifested the utmost indifference in the station-house, telling the inspector in charge that he had come to spend the night with him, and immediately settling himself down to sleep. Two revolvers, one six-chambered and the other five, with every chamber loaded, were found in his pockets, as well as 14 cartridges. The police at Store-street Station were at once turned out to the scene of the shooting, and some time afterwards a man named William Woodward was arrested. Captain Talbot, chief officer of police, was quickly in attendance at Store-street Station and at the scene of murder, and he was to-day actively engaged in prosecuting inquiries into the affair. Chief Superintendent Mallins, Superintendent Entwistle, and Inspector Larrissey, aided by several detectives, are making strenuous efforts to discover all the men implicated, and it is believed that other arrests will be made. The inquest and a full investigation will be held at half-past 12 o'clock to-morrow.

LATER.

Some additional particulars have been received to-night. Constable Eastwood is a member of the Detective Division of Police, who is well acquainted with the leading members of the secret organisation, and has been engaged in many arrests. On account of his experience he was intrusted with the special duty of watching their movements. He was acting in company with Cox in Lower Abbey-street, and observed the party going about in a very suspicious manner into various public-houses. He and his comrade, who were in plain clothes, followed them quietly at a short distance, keeping them still in sight. Leaving Gilligan's, and seeing they were followed, the five men stopped in front of an old unoccupied house, and appeared to have a consultation as to their next proceedings. They did not appear to be aware that there were more than two detectives on their track, and their purpose evidently was to shoot the constables and effect their escape. Eastwood and Cox stood at the other side, and saw one of the party, who seemed to be in command, putting them into position. A shrill whistle, which the police knew to be a signal, was then sounded, and one of the gang walked across over towards the constables to within a few yards distance, looked very keenly at them, and then went back to his confederates and made some report to them. He came forward a second time, looked at the police very carefully, and again returned to his companions. A different man was then sent over from the party to where the police were standing, and Eastwood, seeing that he had a revolver in his hand, told Cox to arrest him. It was then that the latter had his death-wound.

After the arrest of Dowling and Devine the other three men ran away, and, after going a short distance, fired back at the police. Stratford fired at the retreating party, but could not say whether any of the shots took effect. Dowling lived in Kevin-street, close the place where a Fenian armoury was found some time ago. When Dowling was brought into the hospital the first question he asked the doctors was whether he was going to live or die. The doctors told him that it was very doubtful and he replied, "The devil a hair I care, it does not much matter." No further arrest has yet been made by the police, but they expect to make several. Others of the party who were watched are believed to have been concerned in the murder of Bailey, which occurred on a Saturday night some months ago.

Cardinal M'Cabe, in addressing a confraternity of ladies in a convent at Harold's-cross to-day, alluded to the murder last night, and appealed to his audience to use their social influence to prevent any of their friends or others whom they could dissuade from joining the secret societies.

A man named Ryan, a tailor, who served in the American army, has been arrested by the police in Brabazon-row in the house where arms were seized some time ago. He will, it is said, be identified as one of the assassination party.

THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION.

The Deputy Returning Officers of the different divisions, assisted by staffs of enumerators, on Saturday morning commenced the counting of the votes which had been recorded on the previous day, the interests of the candidates being watched by their representatives—who were, in fact, the only persons admitted into the rooms where the work was going on. The boxes containing the balloting papers having been unsealed and unlocked, the papers were sorted and placed in position, and then commenced the examination to see that the voters had complied with the provisions of the Act of Parliament. The perfect papers having been sorted from the rest, the counting of the votes for each of the candidates was proceeded with. All these operations were performed without a hitch in all the divisions, except in Tower Hamlets and in Lambeth. In the former place a clerical error occurred at a critical period of casting the totals, an error which, however, was soon corrected by Mr. Harrison, the deputy returning officer. In Lambeth the difficulty was of a much more serious nature. It is stated that somewhere about midday, after the clerks had been at their work for some hours, there was a complete breakdown in the system adopted, and the work had to be commenced afresh, the result being that the counting was not finished at midnight.

The following are the declarations of the polls, as made known by the Deputy Returning Officers, the name with an asterisk before them being persons who have served on the previous Board:—

CITY OF LONDON (Four Members).

Alderman Sir R. Hanson	6792
Mr. H. C. Richards	6372
*Mr. H. Spicer	5920
*Miss Davenport-Hill	4613
Sir J. Bennett	3373
*Mr. W. H. Bonnewell	1850

The first four candidates are the elected members.

CHELSEA (Five Members).

*Mr. Robert Freeman	9133
*Dr John Hall Gladstone	8652
Mr. William Bousfield	5118
Mr. George Mitchell	4535
Mr. Richard Denny Urlin	4532
Mr. Henry William Rowland	3221
Mr. Samuel Bartlett	2649
Mr. Alfred Ormond	2515
The Rev. Charles Darby Reade	1935

The first five names are the elected candidates.

FINSBURY (Six Members).

*The Rev. Mark Wilks	14320
*Mr. B. Lucraft	14291
*Rev. Dr. Wainwright	11939
Mr. W. R. Bourke	9953
*Mr. T. L. Roberts	8454
Rev. W. T. T. Webber	7190
Mr. A. O. Charles	5669
Mr. J. Ross	5219
Mr. A. O. Rutson	4664
Mr. T. Campbell	4317
Mr. J. Keyes	434
Mr. W. Bishop	190

The first six named are the elected candidates.

WESTMINSTER (Five Members).

*Mr. J Ross	10843
*The Rev. Brymer Belcher	7213
Mr. J. S. Borroughes	6974
Dr. E. B. Aveling	5174
Sir A. Hobhouse	3711
*Mr. Sydney Buxton	3161
*Mr. G. Potter	2433

The successful candidates are the first five on the list.

MARYLEBONE (Seven Members).

*Mr. A. Mills	12078
*The Rev. J. R. Diggle	11496
The Rev. W. Barker	10779
*Mrs. Westlake	9774
*The Hon. E. L. Stanley	8624
Mr. G. B. Bruce	8008
*Mr. E. Bond	7491
*The Rev. J. J. Coxhead	6669
Mr. E. Hopes	3735
Mr. W. Wynne	716

The first seven names are the elected candidates.

SOUTHWARK (Four Members).

*Miss Helen Taylor	9302
Rev. C. D. Lawrence	8288
*Mr. A. Hawkins	5932
*Miss Richardson	5904
*Mr. E. C. Corry	5709

The first four were declared to be duly elected.

GREENWICH (Four Members).

Mr. E. Hughes	22162
*Mr. J. E. Saunders	9494
*Mr. H. Gover	9244
*Rev. T. D. C. Morse	5890
*Mr. G. B. Richardson	4990

The first four names are the elected candidates.

HACKNEY (Five Members).

Mr. T. J. Beven	18666
Mr. J. Lobb	11576
*The Rev. H. D. Pearson	9966
*Mr. B. G. Olding	8091
*Mrs. F. F. Miller	8044
*Mr. E. Jones	4661
Mr. W. H. Sands	3569
Mr. H. T. Tiddeman	3036
Mr. J. Hales	1455

The first five names are the elected candidates.

TOWER HAMLETS (Five Members.)

Sir E. H. Currie	13189
*Colonel L. Prendergast	9687
Miss Hastings	9400
*Mr. E. N. Buxton	9394
*Mr. W. Pearce	7827
Mr. H. E. Hoare	7567
Mr. J. Seigenberg	6546
Mr. W. R. Cremer	2388
Mr. S. J. Fail	272
Mr. A. Side	139

The first five names are the elected candidates.

LAMBETH (Eight Members).

Much disappointment was expressed in this division at the delay in the making known the result, the respective partisans and others being led to believe early in the day that the declaration would probably be made at the early hour of about two o'clock. During the afternoon and evening a large number of people thronged the entrance to the Kennington Vestry Hall, and at night a good deal of horseplay was indulged in, one of the candidates, who appeared somewhat excited, being handled very roughly by the crowd. Shortly before midnight it became evident that considerable time would still be required to complete the results, and it was therefore decided to adjourn the business until Monday. The announcement of the adjournment was received by the crowd with marked feelings of discontent and annoyance.

From the above list it will be seen that of the 53 members of whom the School Board for London consists the results of the polling are now known in 45 cases, and of these no less than two-fifths are new members, the numbers being 18 new members to 27 of the old representatives.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE "KILMAINHAM TREATY."

The "Kilmainham Treaty" has now come to be a personal matter between the Premier and his malicious opponents. It is quite forgotten that at the outset Mr. Gladstone's individuality was not touched by the accusation. It was Mr. Chamberlain whom the little group of lively politicians opposite first desired to get at, and for whose personal benefit they magnified the transaction. He was the Cabinet Minister to whom mysterious allusions were made, and who, as the discussion advanced, was plainly accused of negotiating the treaty. Mr. Gladstone, with characteristic impetuosity, promptly threw himself into the breach and naturally attracted fire. It was soon discovered that he was, as in truth a man might well be, peculiarly susceptible to references under the attractive headline cherished by gentlemen opposite. When the charge was first made, he had, in the most solemn, precise, and emphatic manner, denied that there was the slightest foundation for the insinuation. "There was," he declared, "no negotiation, promise, or engagement whatsoever." After that, to recur to the matter in whatever veiled form, much more to move for an inquiry into the facts, was to give the lie direct to a solemn asseveration. This is not easy to bear, though in less coarse manifestations, not altogether unfamiliar in political controversy, Mr. Gladstone early showed his susceptibility on the point: and thereafter Mr. Chamberlain was forgotten in pursuit of higher game. This was a matter on which, if others failed, one was certain to "draw Gladstone." Lord Randolph Churchill, with fine courtesy and original humour, has for some time been in the frequent habit of touching the raw spot, and always with full recompense. For the House generally, it must be said that the enterprise has lost a little of its freshness.

Points of difference between Mr. Gladstone and the late Mr. Disraeli have often been discussed. The assertion that Mr. Disraeli would have acted differently on Friday night, and on other nights when the Kilmainham Treaty has been mentioned, will probably be accepted without controversy. It may, in fact, be asserted that, if Mr. Disraeli had been in the position of Mr. Gladstone last May, the circumstances under which the Irish members were released would have long since lapsed as weapons of political controversy. In the first place, experience makes it impossible to imagine circumstances in which any member or set of members on the Liberal benches would have made it their business night after night, and session after session, to personally aggravate Mr. Disraeli. The reason of that may, perhaps, be found in the other fact that if they had attempted it they would have utterly failed. It happened during Mr. Disraeli's term of office that there came to light an actual secret treaty of infinitely more consequence than the legendary negotiation between the Cabinet and Mr. Parnell. A disclosure was made under circumstances that greatly aggravated the vexation of the moment. Those who were present on the night when Parliament was made aware of the existence of the document will not forget the appearance of the Prime Minister as he sat on the front bench with arms folded and a far away look in his eyes, as if he were engaged in considering a new turn in the plot of "Endymion," or was engrossed in the problem whether it would be possible for him to get down to Hughenden on Friday night instead of Saturday morning. Questions were put on the subject, and he had to answer them. But his manner, instead of intensifying the importance and interest of the matter, minimised it to a degree at which members desirous of carrying the inquiry a little further felt themselves really ashamed of making all this fuss about so small a matter. It was a stroke of good fortune that led gentlemen like Lord Randolph Churchill, Mr. Gorst, Mr. Chaplin, Mr. Warton, and the latest and most successful aspirant to fame, Mr. Reginald Yorke, to the Conservative benches in the days of Mr. Gladstone. Had they chanced by accident of association, or political conviction, to sit on the Liberal side, with Mr. Disraeli on the Treasury Bench, they would have remained extremely inconsiderable persons.

This being so, Mr. Reginald Yorke can hardly be blamed if he made the most of his opportunity. What is to be complained of is that the performance, as a whole, was somewhat dreary. The comic man of the piece was Mr. Dillwyn, who was constantly presenting himself from the corner seat below the gangway, submitting points of order. He popped out from his place of refuge like a grey squirrel, suddenly disappearing as the loud shouts and yells of hon. gentlemen opposite informed him the pursuers were at hand. Sir George Campbell, too, had something to say. Executing a forced march across the House from the Bar where he had been standing when the thought occurred to him, and, just reaching an empty seat above the gangway, he abruptly rose, and, with a voice that shrilly pierced the uproar, cried "Mr. Speaker!" What more he had to utter no one knows, for amid the *mêlée* Sir George disappeared, and the fruits of his rapid march were entirely lost. It was as if Sir Frederick Roberts, getting within sight of Candahar, had been suddenly swallowed up by an earthquake. These interruptions, occasionally lasting over several minutes, gave Mr. Yorke time for reflection and Sir James Hogg opportunity to arrange the orator's notes with which he had stuffed the full length of the desk before him. The only touch of kindly nature displayed during the lamentable scene must be credited to Sir James Hogg, who devoted himself entirely to this work. When Mr. Yorke faltered, he produced out of the repository before him, and held up with a look of anxious inquiry notes and extracts varying in length from two inches to the proportions of a newspaper column.—*Observer*.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, SUNDAY

The Queen and Princess Beatrice, attended by Lady Waterpark, drove yesterday afternoon. The Very Rev. C. J. Vaughan, Dean of Llandaff, arrived at the Castle yesterday afternoon. Her Majesty the Queen and Princess Beatrice attended Divine service this morning in the Private Chapel. The Very Rev. the Dean of Llandaff, Master of the Temple and Deputy Clerk of the Closet to the Queen, officiated and preached the sermon. At the Investiture at Windsor Castle on Friday last his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught stood by the side of the Queen and assisted her Majesty in investing the several Knights with the insignia of their respective Orders. His Royal Highness then took his place at the head of the Companions of the Order of the Bath, and, having knelt before the Queen, was decorated by her Majesty with the Military Cross of the Companions of the Order, after which his Royal Highness took his place next to the Queen.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, attended by Lady Emily Kingscote and Colonel A. Ellis, returned to Sandringham on Saturday from visiting Lord and Lady Walsingham at Merton.

The Danish Minister, M. de Falbe; the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, and Sir Charles Dilke arrived at Sandringham on Saturday afternoon on a visit to their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The Duke of Leinster, who came from Ireland to attend his brother's funeral, returned to Carton House, Maynooth, on Friday.

The Dowager Marchioness of Downshire, the Dowager Countess of Mar and Kellie, and Lord and Lady Vivian have arrived at Bournemouth for the season.

Earl and Countess Manvers have left town for Thoresby Park, Notts.

Earl and Countess Sydney have arrived at Frognal, Kent, from London.

The Earl of Northbrook and Lady Emma Baring arrived at Stratton Park, near Winchester, on Saturday, from visiting the Marquis and Marchioness of Bath at Longleat.

The Earl and Countess of Romney have arrived at the Alexandra Hotel, Hyde Park-corner.

Lord Richard Grosvenor has taken a house at Bournemouth for the season.

The marriage of Mr. Henry J. B. Manners, eldest son of the Right Hon. Lord John Manners, M.P., and nephew of the Duke of Rutland, K.G., and Miss Violet Lindsay, only daughter of Colonel the Hon. Charles H. Lindsay, C.B., and cousin of the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres and the Duke of Portland, was solemnised at St. George's Church, Hanover-square, on Saturday, in the presence of a large number of relations and friends. The wedding party had assembled by half-past eleven, the Duke of Rutland, the Duke of Portland, Lord and Lady John Manners, Baroness Bolsover, and Sir R. A. Cross being among the earliest arrivals. The bridegroom was accompanied by Lord Manners (Grenadier Guards) as best man. The six bridesmaids were Lady Evelyn Lindsay, Lady Ottoline Bentinck, Miss Evelyn Holford, and Miss Emily Frances Browne, cousins of the bride; Miss Kate Manners, sister of the bridegroom; and Miss Mary Grey. The bride arrived at twenty minutes to twelve o'clock, accompanied by her father, and was received by a guard of thirty men of the St. George's Rifle Volunteers (of which corps Colonel Lindsay is colonel), commanded by Lieuts. Woodward and Barber, and was conducted at once to the altar, followed by her bridesmaids. She wore a dress of ivory white satin, trimmed with flounces and tablier of Brussels lace, with orange blossoms round the throat, and over a wreath of orange blossoms a veil of the same lace was arranged. The bridesmaids' costumes were of chaudron vigoine over plush skirts of the same colour, trimmed with marabout, and plush Spanish hats with pompons to match. Each wore a gold enamelled brooch in the form of an Egyptian scarabæus (emblematic of eternity), the gift of the bridegroom, and carried a bouquet of red and yellow chrysanthemums. The Rev. Canon F. J. Norman, rector of Bottesford, Leicester, assisted by the Rev. T. Denman Croft, M.A., vicar of Kimpton, Herts, performed the ceremony, the bride being given away by her father. Among the relatives and friends present were: The Duke of Rutland, the Duke of Portland, the Marchioness of Hertford, the Earl and Countess of Crawford and Balcarres, the Earl and Countess of Morley, the Countess of Charleville, Countess Grosvenor, the Countess of Romney, Viscount and Viscountess Bury and the Hon. Misses Keppel, Viscount and Viscountess Hood, Viscount and Viscountess Newport, Viscountess Clifden and Hon. Lilah Agar-Ellis, etc. The ceremony concluded, the relations of the bride and bridegroom assembled at Colonel the Hon. Charles Lindsay's house in Audley-square. At three o'clock Mr. and Mrs. Manners left for Lockinge House, the seat of Sir Robert and the Hon. Lady Loyd Lindsay, near Wantage, to spend the honeymoon. The bride's travelling dress was a coat of peacock blue velvet, trimmed with sable, over a skirt of satin of the same colour, and hat to match. The bride and bridegroom's presents were very numerous, and included—from the Queen, an Indian shawl and framed photograph of her Majesty; the Prince and Princess of Wales, a diamond butterfly brooch; the Princess Beatrice, a diamond and sapphire crescent brooch; the Duke of Albany, a diamond and pearl ring; the Duke of Portland, diamond bracelet; and the Duke of Rutland, diamond heart brooch.

The death is announced of Lady Stratford de Redcliffe, widow of the late Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe, who died at her residence, Frant Court, near Tunbridge-wells, on Saturday morning last, after an illness of some days. The deceased lady, Elizabeth Charlotte Viscountess Stratford de Redcliffe, who was the eldest daughter of Mr. James Alexander, of Summerhill, Tonbridge, and a cousin of the Bishop (Alexander) of Derry, was married to Sir Stratford Canning, then first appointed British Ambassador at Constantinople, as his second wife in 1825. Raised to the peerage in 1852 as Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe, his lordship died in 1880, leaving only female issue, the title thus becoming extinct. Her ladyship leaves three daughters to mourn their loss.

The Right Hon. Sir William Hutt, K.C.B., died at Appley Tower, Ryde, Isle of Wight, on Friday evening, in his 80th year. He was member for Kingston-on-Hull in the Liberal interest from 1832 to 1841, when he was elected for Gateshead, which he represented till 1874. He was Vice-President of the Board of Trade from 1860 to 1865, and was sworn a member of the Privy Council.

THE COST OF ARABI'S DEFENCE.

We publish, says the *Times*, a letter from Mr. Wilfrid Blunt which will command general sympathy. On the surrender of Arabi Pacha, it was announced that the rebel leader had been made over to the Egyptian authorities, and would be brought to trial before an Egyptian Court-martial. There was every reason to believe that the proceeding would be of a very summary character, and the tide of popular condemnation flowed so strongly against Arabi and his principal associates, both in this country and in Egypt, that the trial seemed likely to be a mere formality with a foregone conclusion. Each Egyptian member of the Court might be expected to desire to prove his own loyalty to the restored Khedive by hastening to pronounce the doom of the prisoners. In these circumstances, Mr. Blunt, with the impulsive generosity of his nature, undertook their legal defence, and after appealing to the Prime Minister that the trial should be conducted with regularity and deliberation, and that the prisoners should be allowed the assistance of counsel, he engaged the services of the two gentlemen who are now acting for the defence at Cairo. The result is explained in his letter. The trial has assumed the character of a great political inquiry, in which the acts of the Sultan and the Khedive, and the relation of those acts to the conduct of Arabi and his comrades, are called in question. The proceedings have already lasted nearly two months, and appear not yet to have passed beyond an incipient stage. A large staff of clerks and translators is at work at the multitudinous documents of the case. Mr. Blunt estimates the expenses which he has already incurred at between £2,000 and £3,000, and there is no prospect of the case being heard to its conclusion without the cost of some thousands more. "The defence," he says, "of a few men charged before a summary Court-martial has developed itself insensibly into the proportions of a great State trial, and my sole financial back is no longer strong enough to bear the load. The case, unless supported, runs considerable risk of failure with the failure of my resources." Mr. Blunt, therefore, appeals for help in his enterprise, and we do not doubt that he will find many to sympathise with him and to aid him. We have repeatedly expressed our conviction of the futility and uselessness of these proceedings, so far as they tend to develop a political controversy, and we should have been glad if the British Commander had at the beginning acted even more summarily than an Egyptian Court-martial by at once removing Arabi and his principal associates from the country. If the trial is to proceed with the formalities of European justice, it is a question whether assistance ought not to be given to the prisoners from public funds. Indeed, from the tenour of official answers, many may have supposed that this was being done. It is not so, however, and thus there is nothing left but to appeal to the good will and generosity of individuals.

THE DRAMA.

SAVOY THEATRE.

Ever since the production of *Trial by Jury* at the Royalty, now a good many years ago, theatre-goers, says the *Observer*, have eagerly recognised the happy possibilities of easy entertainment afforded by the combination of Mr. Gilbert's quaint humour with Mr. Sullivan's characteristic melody. There is, therefore, little need to wonder at the interest shown on Saturday night in the production of the new piece by this author and this composer, which now follows up *Patience* after its long career. *Iolanthe*, or, *The Peer and the Peri*, does full justice to the powers of its inventors, and its reception on Saturday night left no room for doubt that it answers precisely

Galignani's Messenger.

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LONDON, NOVEMBER 27–28, 1882.

SYSTEMATISED MURDER IN IRELAND.

When Mr. Forster suspended the Habeas Corpus Act English Liberals of the doctrinaire type were horrified at the "despotism" which was thus established in Ireland. We objected to the measure as deficient on the side of effectual severity; dangerous characters were arrested and "kept out of harm's way," but were treated with exceptional indulgence in gaol, as if for the encouragement of others. Therefore, the moral force of the precaution was lost. The attack on Judge Lawson, the murder of Saturday night, and the crime of Monday, however, illustrate the defective side of regular institutions when opposed to a criminal and desperate conspiracy. The man who was about to assail the Judge and the ruffians just arrested will be severely punished; but the expiration of Mr. Forster's Act left the police practically disarmed before the preliminary movements of men whom they knew to be the emissaries of a secret society. A few months ago the assassins whom the six policemen were obliged to dog with unceasing vigilance would have been clapped in gaol, thus anticipating their crime. The police knew them well; they had seen them daily consort with men formerly convicted of Fenian crimes; they were well aware that, though not earning money, they were flush of cash because supported by American funds. The constitutional pedantry of English Liberalism, however, has decided again that nobody is to be imprisoned in Ireland until he is tried, and so the police had to wait until the rowdies shot one of them down. The Coercion Act of this Session has so far worked well, but these outrages in Dublin itself suggest whether it does not need to be supplemented by a more sweeping measure, which will arm the police with precautionary and preventive powers. By changing the venue to Dublin, and by copious challenges to jurors suspected of sympathy or cowardice, the Crown is enabled to obtain conviction when crime is committed. But the clauses in the Act which provide for the arrest of suspected strangers, though they work well in rural districts, are of little use in Dublin or in large towns. Stricter powers are required to cope with the desperation of well-paid ruffians who cross the Atlantic, armed with the ready revolver or the long knife which was used in the Phœnix Park assassination. To wait until these desperadoes—armed and supplied with money, and waiting calmly for a chance to kill—commit some overt act is on a par with the opinion of certain Continental politicians that England should not have assailed Arabi until he attacked the Canal. Constable Cox would have been alive now had the police retained the powers they possessed under Mr. Forster's rule. Instead of humbly waiting on the scoundrels, the detectives would have arrested them on the first signs of conspiracy, and saved Dublin from a murderous brawl in one of its central streets. No one system suits the Protean character of Celtic crime. Baffled in the country, it emigrates to Dublin; if its roots in Ireland are cut up, it transplants its central organisation to Paris or New York. It works through semi-savages in the far West, and through Americanised Celts in Dublin. It has landlords, agents, honest tenants, judges, officials, and police—all who represent law, authority, or order—for its foes, and it requires for its suppression the energy and power of a commander-in-chief in time of actual war. In England a certain amount of lenity and toleration even in the presence of popular disorder or any kind of political offence is wise, for it rallies to the side of law a large force of neutral opinion, and enlists the sympathy of the masses of the people on the side of a just and gentle administration. In Ireland mildness is considered weakness, and the majority of the people despise a lax hand on the reins. No amount of amnesty to traitors or respite of sentences would make Dublin Castle the object of loyal support, and we ought to recognise the plain fact that the Government has no strength outside its own organised power and the readiness, if called upon, of the Protestant population to fight on its side. Such an appeal would be so perilous that it is not likely to be made, so that practically the Castle is besieged by enemies, and beyond its own paid men has no available friends. These are the real facts of the situation, and it is only those who are wilfully blind that can affect to ignore them.—*Daily Telegraph.*

THE MALAGASY AMBASSADORS.

The sudden departure of the Malagasy Ambassadors from Paris under circumstances of an almost unprecedented character increases the importance of the deputation which is to wait upon Lord Granville to-day (Tuesday). It will be remembered that in consequence of the serious misunderstandings that had arisen between the French authorities in Madagascar and the Malagasy Government, the latter sent a special Embassy to France in the hope of obtaining an amicable settlement of the dispute. When the Ambassadors arrived in Paris they were soon made aware of the fact that the French agents in Madagascar had acted in strict accordance with their instructions, and that the French Government expected their visitors to yield all the demands which they had made their long journey expressly to resist. As they considered that the French demands virtually involved the surrender of the independence of their country they refused to sign the Convention to which they were required to affix their signatures. Although it was impossible for them to make such concessions as were demanded of them without referring the matter to their own Government, the officials of the French Foreign Office appear to have made no allowance for their position, and to have shown them scant courtesy. We hope that the French Government will promptly disavow the insulting act of a too officious agent in hauling down the Malagasy flag at the hotel which the Embassy had made their residence. Hitherto, in all civilised States the Ambassadorial office has been invested with a sacred character; and it therefore seems incredible that such an incident as the forcible removal of the national flag of the Ambassadors from the window of the apartment which they occupied should have taken place in the presence of persons officially connected with the French Government. Meanwhile, it is worthy of remark that the French Government have repeatedly threatened to "strike" at the Malagasy ports, and there is some reason to believe that orders have now been actually sent to the French fleet on the East Coast of Africa to proceed to Madagascar. Up to the present time the French Government have made no public declaration of their policy, but it seems impossible that they can any longer postpone an explanation of their demands upon Madagascar, as well as of the grounds of the hostile operations which are now threatened. Such an explanation is clearly due to the other nations which have interests at stake in the great African island.—*Daily News.*

THE TROOPS IN EGYPT.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Monday:—

The Cairo hospital statistics for the five days from the 22d to the 26th inst., both inclusive, are 307 fresh admissions, 111 discharged to duty, 121 removed elsewhere, seven deaths, 767 remaining in the beds. The number of patients in the military hospitals throughout Egypt is 1,133, out of a total force of 12,536—rather over 9 per cent. These returns show an improvement in the health of the troops; but the large number of fresh cases coming in is a serious feature.

The hospital arrangements have received the careful attention of Sir Andrew Clarke, who has visited Lady Strangford's hospital. This institution, after doing valuable work, of which not the least portion is the example set, is now likely to be closed, owing to want of funds, unless the British public respond to the urgent appeal made to Lady Strangford to preserve so fitting a memorial of British intervention in Egypt. There can be no object more necessary and deserving in itself, and more likely to heal native ill-feeling, than this unassuming work of philanthropy. It was founded, irrespective of all political prejudices, under the combined patronage of the Khedive and the Duke of Connaught.

Toulba is suffering from a pulmonary complaint, and is attended by an English doctor. All difficulties between Arabi's counsel and the Commission of Inquiry have been arranged. The latter behaved with an amount of discourtesy against which counsel very properly protested; but, as counsel themselves admit, the error was one of ignorance and not of malice. The impossibility of grafting Anglo-French procedure on that of a native tribunal is now evident; and it may be hoped that the Egyptian Ministry may be induced to see that the interests of their country demand the sacrifice of their *amour propre* to the necessity of getting rid of a judicial force which obstructs all legislation.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, MONDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove yesterday afternoon attended by Lady Waterpark, and her Majesty walked and drove this morning, attended by the Dowager Marchioness of Ely. Princess Beatrice, attended by the Hon. Mary Pitt, rode. The Very Rev. C. J. Vaughan, dean of Llandaff, had the honour of dining with the Queen and the Royal Family yesterday, and left the Castle to-day. Captain A. Bigge, R.A., has also left, and Captain Edwards, C.B., has arrived at the Castle.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

After staying at Addington Park all Sunday night, Dr. Carpenter issued the following bulletin on Monday morning:—"The Archbishop has passed a quiet night with refreshing sleep, but there is no increase of strength this morning." This report was telegraphed to the Queen and to the Prince of Wales.

The Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz is on the eve of leaving her residence in St. James's Palace on her return to Neu Strelitz.

Monday being the anniversary of the birthday of the Princess Mary Adelaide (Duchess of Teck), who was born in Hanover in 1833, a select party dined with the Duke of Cambridge at Gloucester House.

The Duke and Duchess of Argyll have arrived at her Grace's villa at Cannes for the rest of the winter.

Lord Selborne, the High Lord Chancellor of England, attained his 70th birthday on Monday, having been born on November 27, 1812.

Lord and Lady Brougham are among the guests of the Earl of Northbrook and Lady Emma Baring at Stratton Park.

Lord and Lady Berwick have arrived in town. The new peer was educated at Marlborough, and served for some time in the Royal Scottish Fusiliers. In the year 1869 he married the daughter of Herr von Nystrom, a member of an old Swedish family in Malmoë, and since that time his lordship, who is an enthusiastic yachtsmen, and Lady Berwick have lived almost continuously on board his yacht, keeping it in commission both summer and winter for the last 12 years.

General Lord and Lady Wolseley have arrived on a visit to the Earl of Northbrook and Lady Emma Baring, at Stratton Park, near Winchester.

The death is announced of Dowager Lady Grey Egerton, which occurred at the family residence in Albemarle-street, on Sunday last. The late Anne Elizabeth Lady Grey Egerton was the second daughter of the late Mr. George John Legh, of High Legh, Cheshire, and married March 8, 1832, the late Sir Phillip de Malpas Grey Egerton, Bart., of Oulton Park, who was for many years M.P. for Cheshire (who died April 5, 1881), and by whom her ladyship had issue Sir Phillip le Belward Grey Egerton, the present baronet; Captain Roland Grey Egerton, in the Rifle Brigade; Anna Mary Elizabeth, married to Mr. Henry R. Corbet, of Adderley, Salop; and Cecily Louisa, Countess of Selkirk.

A marriage has been arranged and will shortly take place between Mr. Robert Bickersteth, eldest son of the Bishop of Ripon, and Lady Lavinia Bertie, second daughter of the Earl of Abingdon.

THE LOSS OF GOLD-LEAF IN PORTSMOUTH DOCKYARD.—It appears (the *Army and Navy Gazette* says) that an extensive trade is carried on by second-hand jewellers in compressed gold-leaf. Gilders, both in Government and civil employ, take home all the leaf they can after their day's work, compress it, and sell it by weight. This may account for the loss of gold-leaf in Portsmouth Dockyard.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

ARABI'S TRIAL

Lord ELCHO—On Thursday, to ask a question as to the defraying of the expenses of Arabi's defence.

Lord J. MANNERS will ask whether the Government have incurred pecuniary responsibility for his defence.

THE DUBLIN ASSASSINATION.

Mr. TREVELYAN, in reply to Mr. Gibson, said—I have heard many interesting particulars of what took place in Dublin on Saturday night, and I know very well what are the views and intentions of the Irish Government, but I do not feel justified in communicating to the House anything beyond what has appeared in the newspapers. I must ask hon. members to keep in mind the distinction between the general state of Ireland and the special question of violent organised crime in Dublin. The agrarian outrages in the current month will almost certainly fall below one hundred for the first time in 28 months. But the Irish Government never concealed from themselves that murderous crime in Dublin is in some respects to be considered apart from the general state of law and order in Ireland. With this crime, from causes I cannot refer to more fully, but chiefly owing to what I cannot but think are the excellent arrangements of the Irish police force as at present conducted, we have now reached the stage of open conflict. (Cheers.) High and low, the servants of her Majesty in Ireland, are determined to do their duty in this matter, and I trust the country will recognise the heroic courage of the Dublin police, who have again shown what stuff they are made of, and the courage of that gallant sergeant of the Rifles who stood by them under circumstances, I fancy, though I have never been under fire, more trying than those of ordinary battle. The inquest on Constable Cox commenced at two o'clock to-day, and I have not yet heard the result. I am glad to be able to confirm the report that he is an unmarried man. He has an uncle an inspector in the corps, an excellent officer who will, I am sure, be proud of the manner in which his nephew died gallantly doing his duty.

Mr. J. LOWTHER: I will not follow the right hon. gentleman into the somewhat argumentative answer he has just given as to the degree of connection between crime in Dublin and in the provinces; but I wish to ask him whether it is the fact that a murderous assault was made in the course of to-day upon a waterbailiff.

Mr. TREVELYAN: I do not know what it is the right hon. member speaks of as argumentative. I said what every member of the House will concur in, that there are certain features not in common between crime in Dublin and in the country. It was for public reasons that I said so. It was to inform the House that the authorities in Ireland had been extremely anxious, and though this manifestation will shock them in common with every one else, it has not surprised them, and they feel that good will come out of this terrible evil. It would have been different if I had said there was no connection. What I said was the circumstances were not the same.

THE BAY OF TAJOURA.

In answer to questions from Baron de Worms and Mr. Bourke, Sir C. DILKE said the Government were decidedly of opinion that the Bay of Tajoura, alleged to have been ceded to France, was part of Egyptian territory, and he stated also that the Embassy from Madagascar was on its road to this country, and it would be properly received.

THE NEXT MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.

Answering a question from Mr. Cowen, Mr. GLADSTONE protested against an inference drawn from some words of his on Friday, that Parliament was to be called together again in January, but he admitted that the sounds with which that remark was received convinced him that such a proposal would not be satisfactory.

PROCEDURE.

The House then took up rule 13 of the Procedure Code, which converts into Standing Orders the first seven and last three of the Resolutions already agreed to.

Mr. E. STANHOPE moved to exempt the clôture resolution from this category, pointing out that this innovation had not been recommended by any Committee, that it had been carried by a strict party vote, and that before accepting is as part of its settled law, the House ought to have some experience of its working.

Sir J. LUBBOCK also proposed (though he was not able by the rules of the House to move it formally) to exempt the second Resolution, allowing motions for adjournment at question time on the demand of 40 members, and

Mr. GLADSTONE admitted that the Government to some extent shared in the apprehension on which Sir John Lubbock's amendment rested. But, looking to the peculiar circumstances of the Session, he was not inclined to despair that in the end the Resolution would work well. As to Mr. Stanhope's motion he denied that the clôture had been carried by a party vote, inasmuch as he had expressly stated that the Government would accept the decision of the House, although it might be adverse to them. He believed that the operation of the clôture would be mild, and that no experiment was needed, but judging from the apprehensions expressed on the other side of its drastic character, if it had to be renewed it would take another 19 days to pass.

After some remarks from Sir R. Cross, Mr. B. Hope, Baron de Worms, Mr. Macfarlane, and Mr. Sclater-Booth, the motion was negatived on a division by 137 to 90, and the Resolution was agreed to.

Mr. GLADSTONE then moved the first of the resolutions for the appointment of Standing Committees—a measure from which, he said, he anticipated more valuable results than from the penal restrictions on which the House had been engaged up to this time. In the first place, it would prevent that waste of power through the House insisting on transacting on the floor of the House, as a whole, business which had only a special interest for a part. It was not a gagging but a liberating and enlarging measure; but, considering its novelty, he was willing to try it experimentally for the next Session of Parliament only, and for a limited class of Bills. Dealing with the details, he said the appointment of Chairman would be vested in a Chairman's panel. As to time, the Committees would meet within the hours of the present Committees; as to place, there would be no difficulty in providing accommodation with the apartments the House had at its disposal; and the Committees would have a procedure ready made to their hand. The results of the measure, he anticipated, would be a greater satisfaction of the public wants, greater capacity of the House to concentrate its attention on great subjects, the admission of the younger members of the House to a larger share in the business, and a considerable relief to members.

Sir R. CROSS moved as an amendment that it is inexpedient to proceed with this question at this period of the year. In advocating delay, he dwelt on the entire novelty of the proposal, pointing out that the inevitable result must be entirely to revolutionise the ancient procedure of the House, to break it up into bureaux, not merely of subjects, but of nationalities, and that in time Scotch and Irish business would come to be referred to Scotch and Irish Committees. It would be impossible to exclude political topics from these Committees, and while they would be too small to carry weight, they would be too large thoroughly to thrash out the details of the Bills. Moreover, if they were to sit in the mornings, how could the lawyers and the merchants attend them and how were members to be found for the ordinary Select Committees and Committees on Private Bills?

Mr. NORWOOD, who took the same view, pointed out the danger which must arise from sending bills to a committee of experts, and maintained that very many commercial constituencies must be altogether disfranchised under this new system in regard to commercial measures. He dwelt also on the difficulty of classifying bills—asking, for instance, whether Bankruptcy and the Law of Partnership were to be regarded as belonging to the legal or commercial Committees; and he predicted that the ultimate result must be to set up a species of Home Rule. What, he asked, was to happen when important changes were made in a bill by the Standing Committee; what guarantee was there that the Committees would be properly appointed; and how was a member who brought in a bill to be sure that he would be on the Committee which considered it? On the same side, Sir H. Holland and Mr. Gregory maintained that Select Committees on the old system would do the work more satisfactorily, and that the new proposal would be found totally unworkable in practice. Mr. Stanhope regarded the scheme as absurd, while Lord R. Churchill denied that the country called for the mass of legislation contemplated by the Government, and ridiculed the proposed classification of the bills, the mode of electing the Committees, and other details. Mr. W. Fowler, speaking from the Ministerial benches, required further information as to the appointment of these Committees and the classification of Bills, and expressed a preference for a development of the present Select Committees. Mr. S. Leighton and Mr. O'Donnell spoke in favour of the amendment. Mr. Labouchere accepted the proposal as an experiment, and Mr. Forster was also ready to give it a trial as a means of getting through the work which the country expected, although he could foresee many dangers surrounding it.

Mr. GIBSON put several points, on which he insisted further information was needed, and argued against settling what he regarded as a revolution without the opportunity of adequate discussion.

Mr. DODSON, replying to various inquiries, said that each Bill would go to the Standing Committee, unless it were otherwise ordered, and that the composition of the Committee would be regulated partly by the character of the Bill and partly by the party composition of the House. This, he insisted, was the proper time for settling the question.

On the motion of Captain Aylmer, the debate was adjourned.

IRELAND.

In answer to an inquiry from Lord J. Manners, Mr. GLADSTONE informed the House that, according to a telegram just received from Dublin, the foreman of the jury in Hynes's case had been assaulted and gravely, perhaps fatally, injured.

ANOTHER MURDEROUS OUTRAGE IN DUBLIN.

Writing on Monday night the Dublin correspondent of the *Standard* says:—While Dublin is still appalled at the assassination of Saturday night, the City is again shocked with the news of the perpetration of another outrage, which will, in all probability, cause the victim's death within a few hours. The details of this evening's terrible affair in some manner resemble those of the Phœnix Park murders, for the assassins used a car to bring them to the spot selected for their purpose and then aid them in escape. The person attacked was one of the Dublin special jurors who had done his duty by finding a verdict in one of the capital cases sent up under the Prevention of Crimes Act for trial in Dublin. It was the case in which Michael Walsh (whose brother had been previously convicted for the Letterfrack murder) was found guilty of the murder of Constable Kavanagh, who had rendered himself active in tracing the Letterfrack murderers. The trial came off in September, and amongst the jurors was Mr. Denis J. Field. The prisoner was found guilty and sentenced to death; but owing to his extreme youth the capital sentence was commuted to penal servitude, and one of the jurors who signed the memorial was Mr. Field, who carried on business as a stationer in Westmoreland-street. During the trial his name was brought conspicuously before the public, owing to a business communication he happened to make while in the Jury box to Mr. Goddard, of the Property Defence Association.

Mr. Field, who is sixty years of age, and very near-sighted, has a private residence at 14, North Frederick-street. This evening at six o'clock he left his place of business and proceeded homewards. Frederick-street is a continuation of Rutland-square at the top of Sackville-street, and is a much-frequented thoroughfare, as it forms one of the direct entries to the northern suburbs. The street some years ago obtained notoriety, for it was when passing through it that Talbot, the policeman who entered the Fenian organisation in order to betray the members, was assassinated. Mr. Field had almost reached the door of his house at a quarter-past six, the street being then pretty well thronged by persons returning home from their business. Two respectably-dressed men drove up on a car, one of the ordinary city licensed vehicles, guided by a licensed Jarvey. One of the occupants of the car sprang down on the footpath beside Mr. Field when the latter was a few yards from his own door. Then the car was driven on to the corner of North Frederick-street and Hardwicke-street, about eight yards further on, the driver and the second man remaining on the car.

The assassin who had jumped down carried a sword, which he had drawn before leaving the vehicle. Mr. Field did not see the danger, and instantly the fellow stabbed him two or three times with the sword. The suddenness of the attack took every one by surprise. There was a cry of horror from the spectators as the victim sank to the ground from the dreadful wounds inflicted. But the assassin was determined to complete his work, for as the wounded man lay at his feet bleeding he again plunged the sword into the prostrate body several times. Two young men who were going home after their office work were coming up the street. When they saw the gentleman on the ground they rushed forward. The murderer, even as they were approaching, plunged the sword twice into the body of Mr. Field, then brandished his weapon, and ran to the corner where the car was waiting for him. Springing to the seat at the side next his companion, he jumped upon the car, which was then driven rapidly down Hardwicke-street, which runs at right angles to Frederick-street.

The two young gentlemen raised cries of "Murder," and one of them, being a fast runner, followed the car for a considerable distance; but he soon had to give up the pursuit. The driver increased the pace to a furious rate. Some other persons joined in the chase, and the vehicle was kept in view. It turned into Dorset-street. The assassins were about to leave the car, but, looking back, they saw the pursuit was being continued by a number of persons who had joined those who had witnessed the outrage. The horse was then whipped up again, and the car was observed to wheel round into Synnot-place, where both it and its occupants were lost sight of.

No arrests have been made up to the present in connection with the affair. It is scarcely possible that Mr. Field can recover, though up to midnight he survived. The two gentlemen who followed the car described it as of a darkish red colour, and driven by a man apparently of the ordinary Dublin Jarvey type. While the assassins were being followed a crowd of pedestrians stopped and surrounded the wounded man, who was picked up and brought to his own house.

The excitement caused by the murder of Constable Cox on Saturday night has not in the least subsided. A story which gave rise to curious conjectures was circulated through the city to-day. Judge Harrison had nearly all the Judges and several members of the Inner Bar at dinner at his residence, Mountjoy-square, on Saturday, and several of the Judges on their way home passed down Sackville-street about eight minutes after the murder. Some people go so far as to suggest that there was an intention to attack the Judges, but the police believe that the prisoners had no such purpose. The detectives are using every effort to trace the rest of the gang that attacked them. They arrested five persons to-day on suspicion of being concerned in the plot, but they only detained two of them pending further inquiries. The wounded assassin, Dowling, is progressing favourably, and is expected to recover.

To-day the Lord Lieutenant called at the Royal Barracks, and complimented Serjeant Danvers, of the King's Royal Rifles, upon his bravery. His Excellency added that he had written to the Duke of Cambridge on the subject, commending the Serjeant's conduct.

An inquest was opened on Monday on the remains of Detective Cox. The Head of the Detective Department stated that Cox was sent with other constables on Saturday to watch a gang of men who were suspected of carrying arms and resorting to certain houses in the city for the purpose of organising outrages and assassinations. The three men in custody besides the assassin, who is in hospital—John Devine, William Woodward, and William Ryan—were brought up at the Police-court in the afternoon, and, after some evidence had been taken, were remanded.

The *Freeman's Journal* (L.) says:—"It is at least conceivable that this latest tragedy, if properly dealt with, may lead to disclosures which may throw light on the Phœnix Park murders, though it would be rash to assume any connection between the two, or indeed to form any judgment on a transaction one of the worst features of which is the apparent absence of motive for the reckless sacrifice of human life."

The *Irish Times* (L.-C.) says:—"No scruples must now stand in the way of a thorough search in suspected quarters, or of any other steps which can be taken to draw the net tighter which is enclosing the secret plotters against life and law. If our Criminal Investigation Department is more than a name it has a problem that ought not to baffle its skill. If any further statute is needed to increase the powers of the executive in any direction the House will be better employed passing such an Act than pottering over Rules of Procedure or squabbling about violated treaties. The condition of things in Dublin is intolerable, and quickly ruining the city. It will not answer to have this death and dismay brooding upon our welfare constantly."

The *Dublin Express* says:—"Like the Phœnix Park tragedy, and like the attempted assassination of Mr. Justice Lawson, we believe that this last deed is aimed at those who in any way are connected with the cause of law and Government. That these deeds are perpetrated on Saturday nights is another of many arguments that may be brought forward for closing the public-houses early on that evening."

SATURDAY AT DUBLIN.

The murderous affray in Dublin on Saturday night, following so speedily on the attempt on Judge Lawson, warns the public, what has been known for some time to the authorities, that the secret societies in Dublin are making ready for an active winter. Other phases of violent disorder have abated. Rents are being paid. The spirit of agrarian outrage slumbers. It would be rash to make too sure that even in the country districts we may not now and again be startled by the commission of some isolated crime. Mr. Davitt's speech in Meath yesterday sounds as if the cry of No Rent were once more among the possibilities in the air. The alleged approach of famine in the west is to be made the plea, if we may judge from a very brief report of what Mr. Davitt said, for a new campaign:—

Unless wise and just legislation ere long prevented its necessity, the time would come when the starving people of Donegal, Connemara, Kerry, and Cork, would have to be told to march down on the plains and seize the land upon which to live as civilised beings in a Christian country. He proposed, in case Mr. Gladstone did not apply the surplus of the Arrears Estimate to save the people, that no rent should be paid from this November until next May, and that out of this sum a portion should be placed in a national relief fund, by which to save the people from starvation.

If this menace be fulfilled, we shall find ourselves embarked once more upon a sea of agrarian trouble. The chances are, however, that there will be no serious movement of that kind, and that the Government will have only to deal with the more dramatic but less really formidable activity of the secret societies of Dublin and Cork. It has always seemed to us inevitable that as soon as the great tide of the land agitation had subsided the Fenians, who have always bitterly detested that agitation, would feel bound to justify their own policy by resorting to their own execrable methods. The double murder in the Phœnix Park was the first and most hideous notification of what would take place, and it will tax all the energy and vigilance of the Dublin detective force to quell the bands of assassins and desperadoes. We need only recall the exploits of the Molly Maguires in the coal region of Pennsylvania a few years ago to convince ourselves that there is only one way of dealing with these nefarious associations. They can only be reached from within. The Molly Maguires were broken up and brought to justice by means of an Irish detective, who, with extraordinary skill, hardihood, and perseverance, mastered their passwords, armed himself with their secrets, and secured all the threads of their organization. It is only by some such devices, or by voluntary betrayal on the part of confederates, that the Dublin police will be able to lay their hands on these miscreants. It is mere petulance to make the event of Saturday a text for party diatribes, or for suggestions that "if any further statute is needed to increase the powers of the Executive in any direction the House will be better employed passing such an Act than pottering over Rules of Procedure or squabbling about violated treaties." No statute that could be devised will touch this particular plague. The acuteness and intrepidity of the police is all that we have to trust to; and no strong language about the state of things being disgraceful, intolerable, and the rest, will be of the least avail.

It is not much more sensible, as we venture to think, to bring the vote of the Dublin ratepayers on Saturday into any kind of connection with the murder of Saturday. "Though of course," we are told, "the majority of them would shrink with horror from association with the assailants of the detectives, they have declared themselves strongly at the recent municipal elections in favour of extreme Nationalist views." It is true that five candidates labelled as Nationalists appear to have been returned, but it is certainly inaccurate and misleading to describe them as in favour of "extreme Nationalist views." An extreme Nationalist is for separation and Irish independence. We are inclined to doubt whether a single candidate elected on Saturday goes near to this description. Mr. Alfred Webb, for instance, is a very moderate Home Ruler, a Quaker of high respectability, and of as honourable character and repute as any Councilman in the Corporation of London. Mr. McMahon, who is also labelled as Nationalist, is a successful man of business, who has been conspicuous in the movement in favour of Irish manufactures, and is an energetic employer of labour in a factory of his own. A third of the five is equally in a good position, and excellently fitted for public business. Gentlemen of this sort are only Nationalists to the extent of believing that there is a vast deal of Irish business which is neglected and mismanaged under the present system, and which could be much better done by Irishmen than by Englishmen. A man like Mr. Webb is no more "disloyal to the connection" in the sense of the Fenians than he is a party to assassination plots in Dublin pot-houses. It is important to notice, moreover, that the Dublin municipal franchise is extremely restricted. The number of voters is a mere fraction of the number in an English city of corresponding population. The election, therefore, was no democratic or proletarian protest. What it expresses is the growing desire among the respectable middle-class to have a larger share in the transaction of their own business. The task of the English statesman is to find some means of satisfying this sentiment without doing more harm than good. The task is hugely difficult, but it is not to be evaded.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

TERRIBLE RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

The most appalling accident that has happened on the Great North of Scotland Railway since it was opened occurred on Monday evening on the Macduff and Turriff branch of that line, by which five persons have been killed and several injured. The accident occurred at a point on the line two miles from Auchterless Station, and about the same distance from Fyvie. The custom of this railway is to run mixed trains of wagons and passengers' vehicles, and the train which left Macduff at 4.20, due in Aberdeen at 6 o'clock, was of this description, there being three wagons in front of the carriages. After leaving Auchterless the train passes through a level country for about a mile, and at this distance there is a level crossing, called Gatehouse. From this crossing the line rises till it reaches a bridge over the Ythan, a river about 30ft. wide. A few hundred yards further on here is a bridge across the Turriff turnpike road. It is an old structure, built more than 20 years ago. It is made of iron, with wooden cross beams, and there is no railing at the edges of it. The height is about 18ft. from the level of the road, and its length about 40ft. It was at this point that the accident happened. Telegrams from the spot state that the engine of the train and the guard's van had passed over the bridge in safety, but when the three wagons were crossing the bridge gave way, and the vehicles were precipitated on to the road beneath. The carriages, in which there were a considerable number of passengers, were pitched by the force of their motion into the chasm, and amid a scene of confusion and terror which it is impossible to describe, the vehicles were piled in a heap. One third-class carriage stood for a considerable time on the brink, but ultimately fell on the top of the others. The vehicles thus thrown on to the road were two third-class carriages, a van, and three wagons. The only first-class carriage in the train remained on the line, owing mainly to the fact that the vehicles in front had filled up the gap. The engine remained on the railway about 200 yards forward from the bridge, but the force of the falling wagons had pulled the tender off the line. The scene of suffering and horror that was witnessed by the engineman and surviving passengers, when, amid the confusion, they had sufficiently collected themselves, was heart-rending. Many bodies were seen among the ruins, and the cries of the wounded for help were piteous to hear, the more so that succour was not at hand. The spot is in the midst of a rural district, and only a few scattered houses are within a couple of miles. Information was at once telegraphed to Aberdeen, and as speedily as possible a special train was sent out with medical men, the manager of the line, and his assistants, and a number of persons to attend to the wounded. In the meantime all that was possible to be done by the few persons who were on the spot was done, and the work of relieving those who were crushed beneath the mass was proceeded with. People from Fyvie and Auchterless soon arrived, and gave all the assistance that was possible. The special train reached the scene at 15 minutes past 8 o'clock, and steps were immediately taken to have the injured persons conveyed to Aberdeen.

LATER.

Official information as to the accident is to the effect that five persons have been killed and 11 seriously injured. The names of the victims have not yet been made known. Indeed, the railway officials are unable to give any information calculated to satisfy the many anxious friends and relations of the passengers, many of whom have been waiting anxiously at the station since the intelligence was received. Telegraphic communication has been interrupted by the state of the weather, and it is with the utmost difficulty that the shortest message can be transmitted. There is additional delay owing to the distance of the nearest telegraph station from the scene of the catastrophe. The Sheriff and Procurator Fiscal and other officials have been summoned from Aberdeen, and will proceed to the spot with all possible speed. From the information that has been received by them, it appears that after the engine had passed over the bridge, one of the beams by which the structure was supported tilted up, catching the wagons and causing the violent check which dragged the tender off the rails and snapped the couplings. The bridge had been in a shaky condition for some time, and it was under repair at the time of the accident. In consequence of this, orders had been given that all trains should slow up in passing over it, and consequently the train was moving very slowly when the accident occurred. The railway officials are of opinion that if the train had been at full speed it would have passed over before the bridge gave way. The excitement in the district is great, and at Aberdeen Station crowds of people have gathered, anxious to learn the latest particulars.

ABERDEEN, MIDNIGHT.

The names of two only of the persons killed have been ascertained. These are Gilbert Gilchrist, forester on the Cluny estate, and James Alexander, late clerk on the Great North of Scotland Railway, and recently appointed a canvasser on the Caledonian Railway. The number of persons injured is not stated, but two, it is feared, have been mortally wounded. One of these is Gilbert Brown, Kirkton, Auchterless, and the other is Joseph Pirie, Greenmires, Fyvie. Mr. Smith, Inland Revenue officer, Glendronach, Huntly; Mr. James Macleod, Bromhill-road, Aberdeen; and Ann Gordon, a domestic servant in Aberdeen, have also sustained injuries. The injured persons have been attended to, and will arrive by the special train. The dead bodies were also placed in the special train which left Fyvie at 11.15 for Aberdeen. Along with the train also came the passengers who left Macduff at 4 o'clock. It will be several days at least before the line can be reopened for traffic. In the meantime, arrangements have been made for working the line by trains running up to each side of the gap.

THE INDIAN CONTINGENT.—The Indian Contingent were entertained by the Duke of Buckingham at Stowe House on Saturday. On their arrival at the station covered carriages were sent to convey them to their host's house, where in the evening a splendid banquet was given by his grace. The guests included not only the Indians, but also many of the chief county families in Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire. The Indian visitors were shown over the beautiful grounds of Stowe House and also conducted round the little town, where their picturesque appearance excited the liveliest interest among the residents, who warmly cheered them. In the evening various toasts were proposed, including "The Health of the Contingent." One of the officers responded in capital English. Though the visit was kept as private as possible, many persons in the neighbouring villages heard of the arrival of the strangers, and flocked into the town to get a glimpse of them.

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FRANCE, ENGLAND, AND MADAGASCAR.

The proceedings of France in Madagascar have long been attracting the attention of politicians; and now they are brought prominently before the eyes of the public at large. On Tuesday morning the members of the Malagasy Mission arrived at Charing-cross from Paris, bringing with them a tale of rough treatment which has fortunately but few parallels in the history of European diplomacy; and later in the day a very influential deputation was received by Lord Granville at the Foreign Office, to discuss the recent steps taken by France in the island. The story of the Embassy is instructive. After being once checked in its attempt to leave Madagascar, this party of seven persons at last started for its "visit of friendly negotiations with foreign Courts;" the object being to settle the disputes which had arisen between the Malagasy Government and the French relating to the northern part of the island. These disputes had been formulated in a petition addressed to the President of the French Republic, early in last August, by certain *vrais enfants de la France* resident in Madagascar, who complained in characteristically high-flown terms of the difficulties placed in the way of the French and on the iniquities of the Hova Government. The Frenchman whose hand is to be traced in this petition, and in all the rest of the deeds of the propaganda, is, of course, the Consul, a M. Baudais, who, fired with the example of M. Roustan, seems to think that the part of Consul might very well be enlarged, to his advantage, into that of Minister-Resident and Plenipotentiary. To counterwork these intrigues the Embassy at last made their way to Paris; and, through their interpreter, at once entered into communications with the French Ministry. They soon found themselves, however, in a very curious position. They were kept *quasi*-prisoners in their hotel, and were not allowed to receive English visitors. On Saturday an *ultimatum* was presented, contained a proposed treaty, to which the signatures of the envoys were demanded at once. The principal articles of the treaty were, in the first place, that Madagascar admitted the claim of France to a protectorate along the whole of the north-western coast; and, secondly, that the Malagasy Government should agree to let land to foreigners on 99 years' leases. The answer was such as might be expected. The envoys were willing to undertake that the land question should be settled on favourable terms, but entirely declined to cede any of the sovereign rights of the Queen or the independence of the country. This answer was communicated on Sunday to M. Duclerc, the French Premier, the *ultimatum* having been delivered on Saturday night. M. Duclerc threw the paper aside, exclaiming, "Enough of this; I wish you a good morning"—and soon after, an agent of the French Foreign Office attended at the hotel, and "invited" the envoys to haul down their flag. Rightly interpreting this demand—which was promptly enforced—as a gross insult, the envoys left Paris on Monday evening for London, leaving their servants to follow them with their baggage. They will now join with their English sympathizers in endeavouring to lead Lord Granville into some kind of friendly intervention on their behalf. It was not the envoys, but a strong deputation of their English friends, that Lord Granville received at the Foreign Office on Tuesday. A body including such different men as Mr. Forster and Sir Henry Wolff, Mr. M'Arthur, and Sir John Hay, must be widely representative; and this particular deputation seems to have embodied all possible objections to the proposed French interference with Madagascar. The Society for the Suppression of the Slave Trade dislikes this extension of French influence because the French give licences to Arab dhows to carry "apprentices," which, as Sir John Hay said, is a very slightly disguised form of slave traffic. It fears, also, that the neighbouring island of Réunion will take advantage of French protection to make Madagascar a recruiting ground for the coolies, who, as is well-known, suffer in Réunion a servitude of a most unmistakable kind. Again, as many of the speakers urged, the various Protestant missions have for a long period been doing excellent work in Madagascar; the old hostility to Christianity and Christians is fairly well overcome; and it would be a very serious thing to endanger this progress and this safety from outrage by imposing upon the island a yoke which the people would hate, and which the more violent spirits would be sure to avenge on the Christians and the missionaries. Madagascar, as Mr. Forster said, is the one standing instance of progress among the black races; and this progress, it would seem, is to be rudely interrupted by foreign invasion—for that is how a "protectorate" would be understood. Nor has England a merely platonic interest in the threatened island. It has, according to Mr. Chesson, five times the number of subjects living there that France has; and it does four times the trade. Lord Granville, in his extremely courteous speech, told the deputation that he could not discover that France had any treaty rights that could form a ground for her present advance; and if so, then the nation which has so much the greatest material interest in Madagascar has a right to remonstrate and to protest against a step so likely to injure both the island and its own concerns therein. Lord Granville was quite right in the principle from which he started, that except where our honour or our interests imperatively require it, England should not intervene. But it may do much without proceeding to any formal intervention.—*Times.*

The *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—We cannot disguise some misgivings at the expediency of forming a Madagascar Committee. An Afghan Committee, a Transvaal Committee, an Eastern Question Association, may all have been well enough, because they concerned what was directly and undeniably our own business. It is one thing for people to organise themselves in order to check their own Government, and quite another thing when the Government to be checked is that of another country. The opponents of the Zulu war among ourselves would have had their hands weakened, not strengthened, if an active Zulu Committee had been formed in Paris, and an Afghan Committee at St. Petersburg or Moscow would have served Lord Beaconsfield's purpose admirably. What the Madagascar Committee want from Lord Granville is, in their own words, "friendly intervention and firm protest" against the gross injustice of French pretensions in Madagascar. It would be awkward, we fancy, to prevent the firmness of the protest from spoiling the friendliness of the intervention. Considering the difficulties arising from the Egyptian entanglement, the Government may well be disposed to steer as clear as they can of Malagasy entanglements. French colonial policy is notoriously just now in a rather feverish condition, and it may, though we hope it will not, prove to be the duty of the British Government to form and express opinions upon it. Meanwhile anybody can see the extreme delicacy of the position. The graver the questions that are looming on the horizon, the better the reason for taking care not to irritate still further the susceptibilities of certain political parties in France. If the French Government is going in for a policy of adventure, let us be sure that one or two of the various French Oppositions will criticize and resist such a policy. There are anti-annexationists in France as there are in England. Will such criticism and resistance on the part, say, of M. Clémenceau, be aided by the active indignation of a Madagascar, a Tonquin, a Raiatea, or a Newfoundland Committee? The French grievances against the Government of Madagascar are of two kinds. Some are accidental; others are general and political. The first class remind us of the idle pretexts on which Sir Bartle Frere inferred the intention of Cetewayo to invade Natal. For instance, the agent of a Marseilles house of business was murdered last June, and the Hovas have not yet put their hands on the criminal. A certain French Consul possesesd lands which his heirs now claim as having belonged to him in fee, but which as Madagascar contends were only his for his life. A dhow manned by French Arabs while attempting to smuggle arms and powder into the island was attacked, and two of the Arabs killed. The Arabs were engaged in lawless work, but the French demanded an indemnity, which was agreed to by the Madagascar Government, and the demand for which, by the way, was in itself a recognition of Hova sovereignty over the territory that the French now claim as theirs. These three are the private wrongs of French subjects. The political or national grievances are two. The Malagasy Government, in alleged contravention of a treaty, have forbidden sales of lands to foreigners. Second, the natives in the west and north are supposed (on very shadowy grounds) to have placed themselves under the protectorate of France. The Hovas (in whom Napoleon III. expressly recognized the sovereignty of the whole island only fourteen years ago), disregarded the alleged protectorate, and proceeded to hoist their flag and set up Customhouses on the territory. The representations of the Consul were not listened to, and he was menaced with violence. These are the pleas for the present hostile attitude of France, and for demands which are not yet officially and formally notified, but which are generally supposed to imply the annexation of a large strip of the island to France. The story is a very familiar one, even down to the argument that the Malagasies ought to be compelled at the cannon's mouth, all for their own good, to allow Frenchmen to acquire the best lands in their island. The same high-handed dealing, the same lawless violence towards a weak community of an inferior race, has been systematically practised by British Governments before now, and will pretty certainly be practised again. We are in no position to take so lofty a moral ground as could be wished. We shall need arguments of unexpected strength and cogency to convince us that it will not be best to allow France to burn her fingers in Madagascar if she is so minded. As far back as September last a letter appeared in the *Times* to the effect that "the natives were so enraged at the unjust demands of the French Commandant and Consul, their perpetual intimidation, and the insulting language many French residents employ in reference to their rulers, that some fears of a rising are apprehended." The French will not become masters of Madagascar in a day, and they have not made so good a business of their other possessions in that quarter of the globe that the French taxpayer will cheerfully suffer new burdens in order to multiply such possessions. Tunis is not a popular acquisition. The seizure of Madagascar would be even more like taking a wolf by the ears.

A large and influential deputation waited upon Earl Granville at the Foreign Office on Tuesday afternoon, to urge upon his lordship the desirability of the British Government using its influence for the purpose of bringing about an amicable settlement of the differences which have arisen between the French Government and the Government of Madagascar. The deputation, which was introduced by Mr. Alexander M'Arthur, M.P., consisted of numerous members of Parliament, of the representatives of different missionary societies at work in Madagascar, and others variously interested in the question. Mr. W. E. Forster was the speaker, who supported a memorial read by the hon. secretary (Mr. Chesson), disclaiming any desire to interfere with French rights and privileges, but at the same time deprecating the establishment of a French protectorate, as against the interests of the Malagasy people, who, it was claimed, had of themselves made remarkable progress in civilisation.

Earl Granville, in reply, said,—Gentlemen, the presence here of this deputation appears to me to be a fact of importance that it would be impossible for anybody in my official position to ignore. As has been stated, it is not only important on account of its numbers, but from its representative character. I see amongst you very adequate representation indeed of a large portion of the majority of the House of Commons. It seems to me the deputation is not exclusively composed of those who sit on the Government side of the House. Besides, many of you here present, quite apart from politics, take an interest in this important subject entirely for other reasons. I think I can gather that I may adopt as a general principle generally received here, that it is not the business of this country to intervene in the affairs of other nations unless our honour and our interests are seriously concerned. It is not our business to act as police over the whole of the world, and what has been especially marked by those who have spoken is the desire that this country should maintain the most cordial feelings of friendship with regard to the great and near neighbour on the other side of the Channel. But I understand that your reason for coming here is that you think there are various and special reasons why you should endeavour to stimulate her Majesty's Government in trying to bring this subject of discussion between France and Madagascar to a peaceful solution. I think the serious attention of this country was attracted to Madagascar in 1817, when a slave trade treaty was agreed to by Radama, the King of the Hovas, under certain conditions. I do not think this is the moment to trouble you with any detailed history of all the different incidents regarding France, regarding Madagascar, and regarding ourselves in the years which have elapsed. All I will say is this, that on some occasions France and England have absolutely acted together, and I am not aware of anything but friendly communications—of there being any exceptions to the friendly character of the communications which have taken place between the two countries. In 1850 Lord Palmerston recognised the right of the French to the possession of Nossibé. In 1853 and 1854 there were discussions between the two Governments, which resulted in the understanding that neither would take action with regard to Madagascar without previous consultation with the other. Later on, I think, this understanding was recognised. In 1858, 1859, 1862, and in 1863 most conciliatory assurances were given. Now, there is no doubt that for some years past the relations between France and Madagascar have been extremely strained. I really cannot speak with absolute official knowledge on the subject, but what I gather from the communication with Lord Lyons, consular reports, and from other sources, is that the points in dispute between France and Madagascar at this moment are three. First of all, the claims of individual French subjects; then there is the claim of France that Frenchmen should be allowed to purchase and to hold permanently land in the island; and, thirdly, the claim of France to a protectorate over a considerable portion of the mainland. Now, it would be impossible for me offhand, even if it were desirable, to give any opinion with regard to the claims of individual French subjects against the Madagascar Government. With regard to the claim that Madagascar should allow foreigners to purchase land in the island, the Madagascar Government has consistently maintained their municipal law, which made it impossible that such purchases should take place or should be valid. But, on the other hand, both France and England, although France has stuck to it more pertinaciously than we have, have contended that they have treaty rights which give a claim to both French and English subjects both to purchase land and to hold it. With regard to the French protectorate over a great portion of the island, all I can say is that, as at present advised, I am not aware of any treaty which gives such a right to France. You are aware that for some weeks past there has been an embassy—indeed, it has been mentioned today—at Paris from Madagascar; and it is also a fact that that embassy seems to have come to a sudden end, and the ambassadors have arrived in this country. Although I have had no communication from them up to this moment, I am told, but I do not as yet know it to be a fact, that they are officially accredited to her Majesty. Of course, upon whether it may be so or not, depends my receiving the Embassy officially or as private individuals who wish to communicate with me on this subject. I venture to think that, considering the composition of this deputation, it will be easily understood by you, gentlemen, that I am only performing a strict act of duty if I abstain from saying one single word which can be strained into the slightest discourtesy to the French Government. I think, also, that it will be equally admitted that I have no right to say anything that would commit her Majesty's Government to any particular course, or to say anything which would restrain us in our perfect liberty of action. Understanding that that is the view of the deputation I do most heartily thank you for having come here, and for the very considerate manner in which you have stated the case, which it is evident you have so much at heart.

The deputation then withdrew.

A POACHING AFFRAY.—A serious affray has taken place between some poachers and several policemen and gamekeepers on the Bostock estate, near Middlewich, Cheshire. Guns having been heard at night in the covers, the head keeper, Myles, and a number of watchers took one direction, while James Hook, underkeeper, Robert Niddie, and four policemen took another. The poachers being disturbed by Myles's party, made off, but on crossing a meadow they met the police, whom they began to stone. The constables and watchers joined in the pursuit, when two of the gang of poachers knelt on the ground and fired into the advancing group. The contents of one gun were lodged in the calf of Niddie's leg. The constables and watchers then dashed upon the poachers, who, seizing the barrels of their guns, began to club the policemen and watchers. A desperate fight ensued, in the course of which Constable Hodgkinson received a fearful blow on the head. His skull was fractured, two of his teeth were knocked out, and he was also bruised about the face. A man named Johnson, of Northwich, was captured, but the rest of the gang escaped. Three of them were subsequently arrested. The injured men lie at Northwich in a critical condition. The prisoners were brought before the magistrates on Monday and remanded.

LOSS OF A STEAMER AND FOURTEEN LIVES.—A Lloyd's telegram from Swansea states that the British steamer *Marion*, which left Swansea on Sunday morning for Copenhagen, returned to Swansea on Monday, with serious damage to bows, having been in collision with the steamer *Cambronne*, bound from Cardiff to Havre. The collision occurred on Sunday evening, near Lundy, when the *Cambronne* sank so quickly that fourteen of her crew were drowned. The *Cambronne* was an iron screw steamer of 811 gross tons register, built at Newcastle in 1877, and owned in Nantes.

NARROW ESCAPE OF THE "ASSISTANCE" TROOPSHIP.—The troopship *Assistance*, Captain T. Brooke, which arrived at Portsmouth on Monday from Chatham, after landing the Marine battalion from Ireland, reports that when on her way to Queenstown, at the commencement of the voyage, she encountered such severe weather that she had to put into Falmouth. When off the Wolff Rock, the steel chain of her steering-gear broke, and the ship was driven broadside on towards the Longships, where she was in great danger of running aground, being so close in that a biscuit was without difficulty thrown ashore. She also shipped some heavy seas, which put out the lights in her stokehole.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE COST OF THE OPERATIONS IN EGYPT.

Mr. GLADSTONE, answering a question from Colonel Stanley, said it would be necessary to ask an additional vote for the expenses of the Egyptian war, but whether it would be a vote of Credit or in the form of a Supplementary Estimate was not yet settled. Reminding the House that the original Vote of Credit was £2,300,000—viz., £900,000 for the War Office and £1,400 00 for the Navy, he went on to state that the supplementary charge up to October 1, when the was charge proper was concluded, and without counting any contribution from Egypt, would be £[illegible]20,000 for the Army, and £340,000 for the Navy, making £1,060,000. Putting together the two sums, the total amount to be borne by the British Exchequer would be £3,360,000. In addition to this, there were the expenses of the Indian Contingent, originally estimated at £1,880,000, but the actual expenditure had been reduced to £1,140,000, thus bringing up the total charge for the war up to October 1, including the transport home, to £4,500,000. The extraordinary charge from October 1, which there was reason to believe would be borne by the Egyptian revenue, would not be large in the current year, and in the first instance, it might be necessary to vote it, with a full statement of the arrangement for repayment.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In answer to a question from Mr. Smith, Mr. GLADSTONE stated that, according to a telegram just received, there was reason to believe that the murderers of Professor Palmer and his companions would be brought in by Christmas.

In answer to a question from Lord J. Manners, Sir C. DILKE said he was not aware when the trial of Arabi Pacha will commence, and he added that the British Government has not incurred any pecuniary responsibility for his defence.

In answer to a further question from Lord Elcho as to Mr. Blunt's recent letter in the *Times*, Mr. GLADSTONE said that the Government held themselves entirely free from any responsibility in regard to the trial of Arabi and his companions, and did not intend to defray any part of the expenses for his defence.

In answer to Mr. Labouchere, Sir A. HAYTER said that no emolument was attached to the rank of Colonel which her Majesty has conferred on the Duke of Teck.

THE WORKING OF THE LAND ACT.

In answer to questions from Mr. Richardson, Mr. Gibson, and Mr. Macartney in regard to the employment of Court valuers in the working of the Land Act, Mr. TREVELYAN said that the system not having been followed by the acceleration of business expected from it, a change would be made, and two additional lay Sub-Commissioners would be added to each Court, so that the two pairs of lay Commissioners would be alternately employed in viewing farms and in court. The Land Commissioners were divided in opinion as to the policy of retaining the Court valuers, but they were all agreed that if there was to be a change that which he described was the best. He declined to lay on the table the memorandum of the Land Commissioners recommending the appointment of Court official valuers.

Mr. GIBSON asked leave to move the adjournment of the House in reference to the conduct of the Government in this matter, and leave not being given unanimously, the whole Opposition, with the exception of the Irish members, rose up in support of his request. Mr. Gibson then proceeded to complain of the conduct of the Irish Executive in sweeping away the system of Court valuers in the teeth of the recommendations of the Land Commissioners. He reminded the House that at the beginning of October Mr. Trevelyan had warmly approved the appointment of these officials, though in a very short time after an interview with a deputation of Ulster Liberals he had promised that if a mistake had been made it should be undone. The Land Act, he contended, gave no sanction to the new arrangement, and by their action the Government had degraded the Commission to the position of an Executive Department, and had interfered with the administration of justice by what ought to be an independent tribunal.

Mr. FORSTER pointed out that the question of appointing Court valuers had been debated in the Committee on the Land Act, and had been deliberately decided in the negative, and, speaking for himself, he rejoiced that the Government had made the change.

Mr. MULHOLLAND, on the other hand, thought the Government much to be blamed for the step they had taken in deference to clamour and in furtherance of a design to convert the Ulster tenant-farmers to Liberalism.

Mr. RUSSELL regretted that the Government had ever appointed these valuers, whose action was unanimously condemned by public opinion in Ireland. Many of them, he pointed out, had been landlords' agents, and had not the requisite information for the duty they were called on to discharge. He was glad, therefore, that the Government had put an end to an experiment which must have been full of danger.

Mr. TOTTENHAM denied that the decisions of the valuers had given dissatisfaction, and declared that their dismissal was another proof of the *mala fides* with which the Act had been administered.

Mr. GLADSTONE, confining himself to what he called the dry facts of the case, said he had always been opposed to the appointment of valuers, and had argued strongly against it in the Committee. In deference to the recommendations of the Land Commissioners suggesting that the appointment of court valuers would greatly expedite business in the Courts and diminish the number of appeals he had given way. But in both of these objects the measure had failed, and as it had been very costly, and had given no satisfaction, he thought it better that their appointment should cease.

At this point the Chair was taken by Mr. PLAYFAIR, the Speaker being compelled to retire from indisposition.

Mr. PLUNKET censured the Government for overriding the Land Commission, and severely criticised the speech of Mr. Trevelyan at Dublin, which, he said, left the impression that the Land Act was to be worked, not to do justice, but to satisfy the political supporters of the Government.

The discussion was continued by Mr. Richardson, who praised the Government for an Act which was entirely in unison with the public sentiment; and by Mr. O'Shaughnessy, who also justified all that the Government had done. Mr. O'Donnell recommended the Government to cease experimentalising with the Land Act, and to apply their minds to a definite settlement of the agrarian question. Lord G. Hamilton maintained that the Government had yielded to popular pressure. Mr. Macartney and Mr. Lea spoke, and Lord R. Churchill declared that the constant interference of the Executive with the Land Commission constituted a pollution of justice. So far from this change being made in deference to Ulster, for which he declared the Government did not care twopence, he maintained that recent outrages in Dublin had forced it from the Government, and it was another attempt to buy off agitation.

Mr. TREVELYAN pointed out that this question had arisen from the admitted fact that the Land Act worked too slowly, and that a block was threatened. The Government consulted with the Land Commissioners, who submitted a plan, of which the appointment of Court valuers was a part. This step caused considerable apprehension among the tenants partly because the valuation was made in private and the valuer was not cross-examined, but more particularly because the valuers were believed to be in the landlords' interest. The speech at Dublin Castle which had been criticized was an attempt to reassure the tenants and to persuade them that their interests were safe with the valuers, and this he maintained was precisely what he had frequently done in the House of Commons in answer to questions from the landlords' representatives. The Government had every confidence in the work of the valuers, but they had not succeeded in facilitating the progress of business in the Court, nor had they diminished the number of appeals. The object the Government had in view would be more efficiently promoted by the new system, and though the Government had not succeeded in pleasing either parties, they had been actuated by a desire to do justice to both.

After some remarks from Lord J. Manners, the motion for adjournment was negatived and the debate on the first of the Standing Committees Resolutions was resumed by Captain Aylmer, who spoke strongly against it.

Mr. GORST also opposed it, dwelling on the difficulty of classifying the bills and of nominating the Committees.

Mr. GOSCHEN accepted the proposal as an experiment, and, discussing the composition of the Committees, he impressed on the House the absolute necessity of making them a reflex of the whole House. He was equally against Committees of Experts and Committees of Nationalities, and he also thought that the majority of the day should have a larger representation than under the present system.

Mr. SCLATER-BOOTH canvassed the details of the plan, contending that the Government had not thought it out, and that it would require much more consideration than could be given to it at the present time.

On a division, the amendment of Sir R. CROSS against proceeding with the scheme on the present occasion was negatived by 133 to 77.

The debate was then adjourned, and the House adjourned at 20 minutes to one o'clock.

THE ASSASSINATIONS IN IRELAND.

DUBLIN PROCLAIMED.

The Dublin correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* wrote on Tuesday night:—Dublin seems almost in a state of siege. Constables, well-armed, patrol the streets, and statements are made that further precautions are yet to be taken. The respectable classes of the inhabitants live almost in a state of dread. Reports of murders and assaults and the doings of the secret assassination society, which apparently holds session in the heart of the city in defiance of police and soldiers, are spread, and often exaggerated, in all directions. Not unaccustomed are the residents of Dublin to scenes of anarchy and crime, but not all the murders which hitherto have been committed in Ireland, not even the double assassination in Phœnix Park, have produced the alarm which reigns now in consequence of the events of the last few days. It is evident that the Government must resort to stronger measures than any yet adopted if life is to be even tolerable in the Irish capital. Many rumours are afloat as to the measures likely to be taken by the Lord-Lieutenant. At the clubs it was currently rumoured that what is known as the Curfew clause of the Prevention of Crime Act is to be put in force in the most stringent manner, and the publication of the *Gazette* last night confirmed the rumour. This would undoubtedly give the police greater power, but would in no degree facilitate the arrest of the miscreants who have carried death into so many homes, and whose prompt punishment is so urgently demanded. By all it is felt that the supreme incident in the crisis has occurred, and that the Executive must now intervene with determination and vigour. Proclamations are being issued, and of no doubtful character. Meanwhile the police are doubly vigilant, and patrol the streets in two and threes, completely armed. Between twos and three o'clock yesterday morning the police made an important arrest in connection with the fatal attack upon Detective Cox. The house where the raid was made is a tenement situated in Middle Gardiner-street. Thither Police-constable Scully, Donohoe, and Murphy, under the direction of Sergeant Kelly, went fully prepared for any resistance that might be offered. Their object was to arrest two men, Joseph Poole, and another named Grundy. The latter is a brother of the person who is undergoing two years' imprisonment for intimidating Mrs. Kenny, the widow of the man murdered in Seville-place. Poole also is not unknown to the police. He was for a time imprisoned as a suspect. When the constables entered, they searched two or three rooms of the house in vain. They then passed into an apartment called the back drawing-room, where they found the two men they wanted lying in one bed. Poole seemed terribly frightened when he saw the constables at his bedside. Murphy at once seized him and pulled him out of bed. Scully at the same time presented a revolver at his head, and declared that he would blow his brains out if he offered the least resistance. Murphy and Scully continued to hold Poole on the floor while Donohoe searched his clothes before permitting him to dress. Finding nothing, Poole was ordered to put on his clothes, and Grundy was likewise allowed to prepare himself to leave, after the pockets had been examined. Before their departure the police officers carefully searched the room, but without finding anything. Poole merely said, he "partly guessed what they had come for," whereupon one of the policemen told him that he need not make any statement just then, as he was to be taken to Exchange-court. The prisoners were walked down into Britain-street, where a cab was procured, and the party drove to the chief detective's office. After a short delay there, the hour being now about half-past three, the prisoners were again put into the cab, accompanied by their escort as before, and taken to Store-street Police-station. They were placed in separate cells, so that an empty one was between. Poole by this time had not only regained his self-possession, but appeared in his most buoyant spirits. Hardly had the door of the cell been bolted than he called out to Grundy, "Are you going to sing a song?" Grundy replied by striking up a ditty of a Fenian character. Poole remaining silent, Grundy then complained that he did not join in the chorus, and expressed a hope that he was not gone to sleep. Then Poole sang a song of a Nationalist type, in the chorus of which Grundy vigorously joined. The pair of prisoners could easily be heard outside the station singing for a considerable time.

The report which was prevalent in Dublin late on Monday night that Mr. Field had succumbed to the injuries inflicted upon him by the assassins almost on the threshold of his own home was premature. He is still in a dangerous condition, and but little prospect is entertained of his recovery. In the early part of the day the doctors who were attending him seemed to think that some hope might be indulged in, but towards night the symptoms became most unfavourable, and at one time it was reported that internal hœmorrhage had set in. Last night the Lord-Lieutenant issued a proclamation offering a reward of £5,000 to anyone who within three months would give such information as would lead to the conviction of the assassins or their accomplices, and a further reward of £500 for such private information as should lead to the same result. A promise is given that every effort would be made to insure that the name or names of any person giving private information would not be disclosed or made public. No arrests have yet been made. As illustrating the feeling which prevails among some classes, it was stated at the police-station yesterday that a glass panel in the hall-door of Mr. Field's stationary establishment in Westmoreland-street had been smashed. It was struck by a man with a walking-stick, who afterwards walked quietly off. A police-constable is now on duty at the door.

In the afternoon the funeral of Detective officer Cox was held, and as the procession passed slowly through the streets, every token of respect was shown by the inhabitants. In many parts considerable crowds assembled on the route between Exchange-court, where the murdered body lay, and Glasnevin, where is the burial place of the Dublin Metropolitan Police. The coffin was placed upon a hearse, and was covered with flowers and immortelle wreaths sent from the Viceregal gardens. Immediately behind the hearse were the chief mourners—the sister of the officer, weeping bitterly, and two uncles. Next, marching four deep, came large detachments of officers from the seven divisions of the force, headed by the inspectors and Colonel Connolly, assistant-commissioner. All those wore mourning emblems for their deceased comrade. Following then was a considerable force representative of the Royal Irish Constabulary, and lastly came a long line of private carriages.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, TUESDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove yesterday afternoon, attended by the Hon. Amy Lambart. The Duke and Duchess of Albany arrived at the Castle shortly after 5 p.m. from Claremont. The Hon. Mrs. Richard Morton and Captain the Hon. A. Yorke are in attendance on their Royal Highnesses. Her Royal Highness Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein dined with the Queen and the Royal Family. The Queen, Princess Beatrice, and the Duke and Duchess of Albany walked and drove this morning. The Earl of Dalhousie and Captain Edwards, C.B., have succeeded Viscount Torrington and Colonel Lord Edward Pelham Clinton as Lord and Groom in Waiting. Mr. Boehm arrived at Windsor Castle and had the honour of a sitting from her Majesty for two busts he is executing for the Queen. Mr. C. Sohn, of Dusseldorff, has been honoured by the Queen's commands to paint a portrait of his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught.

The Danish Minister, the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, Sir C. Dilke, and the rest of the guests of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales who arrived on Saturday have left Sandringham. Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, Prince Augustus of Saxe-Coburg Gotha, and the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador have arrived on a visit to the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The Duke of Connaught, accompanied by Prince Christian, Major Egerton, Major Lane, and Sir Howard Elphinstone, shot through the Rapley preserves on Monday and had some excellent sport. On Tuesday the Bagshot covers were beaten, and excellent sport was afforded.

The Duke of Cambridge left Gloucester House for Sandringham on Tuesday to spend the week with the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Count Munster has left the German Embassy, Carlton House-terrace, for Bedgebury Park, Kent, on a visit to the Right Hon. A. J. Beresford-Hope, M.P.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Headfort, Lady Adelaide Taylour, and Miss Wilson Patten have left Underley Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale, for Headfort House, Kells, county Meath.

The Earl and Countess of Sefton and family arrived in Belgrave-square from Croxteth Park, near Liverpool, on Tuesday.

The Earl and Countess of Aberdeen have sustained a domestic bereavement by the death of their infant daughter, eight months old, at Haddo House, on Saturday last.

The Hon. John Lowry Cole, third and youngest son of John Willoughby, second Earl of Enniskillen, by his wife, Lady Charlotte Paget, died at Florence Court, Enniskillen, on Tuesday morning, aged 69, having been born June 8, 1813. He represented Enniskillen in the House of Commons from February, 1859, to December, 1868, having succeeded Mr. Whiteside when he was appointed Lord Chief Justice. Mr. Cole was a justice of the peace and deputy-lieutenant of Fermanagh.

Sir Reginald and Lady Cathcart have left Thomas's Hotel for Tilness Park.

LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM THE "WORLD.")

The hull of the Royal steam-yacht *Victoria* and *Albert* is being surveyed with a view to estimating whether it would be cheaper to build a new yacht on improved lines than to repair her, and at the same time provide her with powerful engines of the most modern type. It follows, therefore, that the *Victoria* and *Albert* will not be available for the service of her Majesty next year, and the Queen would probably make the Continental trip in the Royal yacht *Osborne*, ordinarily reserved for use by the Prince of Wales. But her Majesty will, as usual, take passage between the mainland and the Isle of Wight in the Royal yacht-tender *Alberta*.

Lord Otho Fitzgerald's very sudden death is believed to have been caused by blood-poisoning from an internal abscess; and though he had been more or less ailing for three days no alarm had been felt by his medical attendant till the morning of Saturday, on the evening of which day he died. Sir William Jenner, who had been sent for, did not arrive till after five o'clock, too late to find him alive.

Gladys Countess of Lonsdale has taken the lease of a house in Bruton-street, but will not move into it till the spring, having taken a house belonging to Lord and Lady Claud Hamilton, in Lowndes-square, for the winter months.

Lord Stradbroke's party at Henham Hall last week killed about 2,160 head of grouse during the three days' covert-shooting, of which 1,300 were pheasants. Some woodcocks were shot each day, but these birds have not yet been seen in large numbers on the eastern coast.

The Beaconsfield Club has been purchased on behalf of the members; and the Marquis of Salisbury and Sir Stafford Northcote have accepted the trusteeship. Major-General Feilden, M.P., F. D. Dixon Hartland, M.P., and W. L. Jackson, M.P., have joined the committee. It is intended to inaugurate the club as a members' club by giving a large banquet to the trustees at Willis's Rooms early in the new year, when the bust of Lord Beaconsfield, executed by Count Gleichen for the club, will be unveiled.

The Meath Hounds had extraordinarily fine sport last week, or rather during the second part of last week. On Thursday they ran a fox from Kilcarty Gorse, and killed him on the wooded hill of Glaive; a second from the woods of Dunsany Castle, shared his fate after a capital chase. On Friday they ran a fox from Mulhussey Gorse into the Kildare country, and had a very good gallop afterwards from the Gorse that derives its name from the Hon. Harry Bourke.

Lord Spencer drove his team of blue-roans to Hollywood Rath, Captain Thompson's residence, about eight miles north of Dublin, to see a lawn meet of the Meath Hounds on Tuesday last, but did not even hack about to see the woods and adjacent gorses drawn. His Excellency, however, did not lose very much by not accompanying the hounds; for, though there were two runs of tolerably fair proportions, the afternoon proved most dismal and drenching. His Excellency was, however, represented in the field by some of his Staff.

The improvements that have of recent years shown themselves in Rugby football, as played by the first rank of players, are something very remarkable. Now the ponderous heavy weight, whose sole mission was to push, and who was chosen into a team for the amount of superfluous flesh he carried, is no more